Saturday, October 24, 2009 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 318 P18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

BUSINESS / B1
87 energy contracts worth P90B awarded

ACROSS / A15
2 Benguet areas tagged uninhabitable

COMPLETE LIST / A5
Cinemanila int'l film fest awards top prizes

NEWS / A2
GMA forms climate change commission

HIGH SURF While people up north cower in fear of 20-foot waves spawned by Typhoon "Ramil," down south in Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte, Hawaiian surfer Jamie O'Brien is an easy rider on a barrel wave en route to defeating Australia's Dru Adler in their round four heat at the Cloud 9 invitational surfing competition. Photo taken and released by Surfing Australia on Friday. AFP

Loren looking for No. 1

HIGH WIND Residents of Barangay Punta in Aparri, Cagayan, take cover under a lare-down objection near the delta where the Cagayan River empties into the sea. The "very erratic" movement of Typhoon "Ramil" has baffled weathermen and undermined—in the eyes of the people—the science of weather forecasting. AP/EVCON

Bending with the wind

By Melvin Gascon
Inquirer Northern Luzon

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Residents/children/ comes to the fore when the people of Cagayan are threatened by strong wind and high water.

Take corn farmer Edgar Macabubbad, who heard that Typhoon "Ramil" was heating down on northern Cagayan only days after he had fixed the roof that "Pepeng" pried off his hut in

BENDING A6

Curiously, she did not name main man and political party of choice

By Michael Lim Ubac

VOWING TO RUN ON A "GREEN" PLATFORM, Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday ended speculations on her political plans for 2010, formally announcing her candidacy for vice president at a rally at the Luneta yesterday.

Curiously, she did not say who her presidential running mate would be, declaring that the post was still open.

Nor was there any mention of what political party vehicle she would be using, although many of the leaders and officials of her party, the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC), led by Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco, were at the rally.

Conspicuously absent were partymate Sen. Francis Escudero, the presumptive NPC presidential standard-bearer, and NPC founder and presumable campaign finance businessman Eduardo Cojuangco.

LOREN A14

Puno quits; ruling party in talks with Loren, Vilma

By Marlon Ramos, TJ Burgonio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INTERIOR SECRETARY RONALDO Puno's withdrawal from consideration for his party's vice-presidential nomination left the field open for the recruitment of either Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos or Sen. Loren Legarda into the Lakas-Kampi-CMD 2010 national ticket.

PUNO A11

Erratic 'Ramil' weakens, heads for Taiwan

By Nikko Dizon and Alcuin Papa

THE BEHAVIOR OF TYPHOON "Ramil" has been surprising meteorologists and keeping the residents of northern Luzon on edge.

"It's abnormal, very erratic," Nathaniel Cruz, deputy administrator of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), said yesterday morning of the typhoon that had slowed down and accelerated at least thrice. He said its behavior was being influenced by "the weather systems around it," which he described as "very erratic, too."

After earlier predicting that Ramil would make landfall yesterday in Aparri, Cagayan, weather forecasters said it had weakened into a storm and was very slowly drifting northwest.

VERY ERRATIC A8

Walkout, absences mar Asean summit

CHA-AM, THAILAND—SOUTHeast Asian nations inaugurated a sharply criticized human rights commission Friday as tropical storms, domestic politics and VIP visits caused nearly half their leaders to miss the opening of their annual summit.

Representatives of civil society groups immediately blasted the commission and walked out of a meeting to protest being cold-shouldered by five governments, including the Philippines.

The annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian

WALKOUT A11

BACK TALK Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno (left) announces he's quitting vice-presidential race, leaving ruling party standard-bearer Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. still without a running mate. ALVIN KASIGBAN

PALACE TALK President Macapagal-Arroyo listens to Sen. Loren Legarda after the signing of the Climate Change Act of 2009 in Malacañang on Friday. ERWIN SCERPIO

Taxman wants cut of politicos' campaign kitty

By Ronnel W. Domingo

KNOWING A HUGE MONEY maker when it smells one, the government has levied a 5-percent withholding tax on election expenses and contributions.

TAXMAN A10

Fil-Am accused of mistreating RP teachers

NEW ORLEANS—A TEACHERS' union is claiming that a California-based firm that recruited teachers from the Philippines to work in Louisiana schools made the educators pay fees of $15,000 (P700,000) or more.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) filed a complaint with the US Department of Labor calling for an investigation. The complaint, dated Oct. 20, follows similar ones the union's affiliate Louisiana Federation of Teachers (LFT) filed last month with Louisiana officials.

FIL-AMS A17

RECOVERY COMMISSION

MVP no reconstruction czar after all

By Dexter L. Lucas

IT SEEMS HE WON'T BE ANY kind of reconstruction czar, after all. But he may have a say on how to cut up a pie that could cost upwards of P30 billion.

Less than two weeks after Malacañang announced the designation of business leader Manuel V. Pangilinan as chair of a body that would implement the rehabilitation of areas damaged by two recent storms, officials yesterday released details of a new executive order amending a previous directive putting Pangilinan at its helm.

As provided for under Executive Order 838, signed on Oct. 22, the new setup calls for the government to lead the implementation of the reconstruction effort in cooperation with the private sector.

Under the new order, the private sector will lend its management expertise to the massive effort while providing a system that will help ensure the trans-

MVP NO CZAR A17

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2+
2D 20 27 | 23 4 | 13 9
3D SUERTRES+
6 2 4 | 5 1 7
4D FOUR DIGIT+
8 7 3 5 | 5 3 6
MEGALOTTO 6/45
1 2 13 22 27 36
₱18,873,009.00

PEACE MISSION Filipino peacekeepers from the 1st Philippine Battalion march during turnover ceremonies in Camp Ziouani in the Golan Heights, Israel. The Philippines formally replaced Poland in the southern sector of the UN-controlled zone.

RP seeks postponement of NAM meeting in Manila

By Jerry E. Esplanada and TJ Burgonio

THE PHILIPPINES YESTERDAY called for a postponement of the special ministerial meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement planned for December in Manila to give the country time to recover from two devastating typhoon storms.

"We really need all hands on deck in relief and rehabilitation. That's why the president, and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, are studying if we will continue hosting the NAM Ministerial Meeting in Manila," said President Maria Pilar Arroyo's spokesperson Cerge Remonde.

Remonde said the President has directed Romulo to study the possibility of putting off the conference for another time.

Romulo has been consulting NAM members about holding the ministerial meeting at some other date after December, he said.

He said the government prefers that it be pushed back "because of the priority we need to give to rehabilitation."

"Everything is still under review," said Rafael Seguis, the foreign undersecretary for special concerns.

Officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs said a review panel is considering what options are open for the country, whether to postpone, move or cancel the summit scheduled for late 1 to 5 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

"We're still meeting until from the President. There's no decision yet from the Palace," said Seguis, who heads the review panel.

DFA spokesperson Tess Mahaya said the panel has to consider how the postponement would impact on the country's foreign policy.

"The NAM issue, which is considered a cornerstone of our foreign policy, has been programmed long before the two typhoons hit the country. It is part of our commitments we have endorsed to promote lasting peace, stability, development and progress," Seguis said.

The 116-member NAM represents around 50 percent of the global population. Formally, it represents countries not aligned with or against any major power bloc.

ARELLANO UNIVERSITY 71 YEARS
www.arellano.edu.ph
Affordable Quality Education.
Strong in Local and International Programs.
FLORENTINO CAYCO MEMORIAL SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
A. Doctor of Education (EdD) – Educational Management
b. Master of Arts in Education (MA in Education)
Plan A with Thesis
Plan B with Special Research Paper
Majors: Educational Management & Supervision; English, Filipino, Guidance & Counseling, Home Economics, Mathematics, Psychology, Early Childhood Education, and Special Education
c. Master of Arts in Psychology (MA in Psychology)
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING
Master of Arts in Nursing (MAN)
Majors: Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing, Medical and Surgical Nursing, Community Health Nursing, Obstetrical and Child Nursing, Administration and Supervision in Nursing and Occupational Health Nursing
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Master in Business Administration (MBA)
Majors: General Management, Marketing, Operations Organizational Management and Finance
SCHOOL OF LAW
First-year Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)
Five-year Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) / Executive Class
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
Bachelor of Arts in English
Bachelor of Arts in History
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Bachelor of Arts in Performing Arts (Dance)
Certificate in Basic Course in Performing Arts; Certificate in Intermediate/Advance Course in Performing Arts; Diploma in Teacher's Proficiency Course in Performing Arts
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND COMMERCE
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Majors: Marketing Management and Financial Management
Bachelor of Physical Education
Major in Sports and Exercise Management
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
Bachelor of Elementary Education – General
Bachelor of Elementary Education – Pre-School
Bachelor of Elementary Education – SPED
Bachelor of Secondary Education
Major: Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Mathematics, English, Filipino, Social Studies, and Music, Arts, Physical Education & Health, Filipino Culture and Arts
Teacher Certificate Program (TCP) for regular clients
SCHOOL OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT
Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management
Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management
Hotel and Restaurant Services (Associate Course)
Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management
Track: Quick Service Restaurant Management
INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANCY
Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
BS in Commerce, Major in General Accounting
COLLEGE OF NURSING
Bachelor of Science in Nursing
INTERNATIONAL NURSING PROGRAM
Bachelor of Science in Nursing (U.S. Diploma)
Joint program with Valencia Reviewer College, West Virginia, USA
SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
Majors: Software Technology, Multimedia Technology and Information Technology
INSTITUTE OF ALLIED MEDICAL SERVICES
Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy (B.S.P.T.)
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
FRESHERS – Form 138 – Certificate of Good Moral Character
CROSS-ENROLLEES – Permit to Cross-Enroll
TRANSFEREES – Honorable Dismissal – Transcript of Records – Certificate of Good Moral Character
ARELLANO UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES
ARELLANO UNIVERSITY – Main Campus – 2600 Legarda St., Sampaloc, Manila – Trunkline: 734-7777 to 79 loc. 227 – Telefax: 733-5144
ARELLANO UNIVERSITY – Jose Abad Santos Campus – 2600 5th ave., Pasay City – Tel. No. 831-8377, 833-0533 loc.268,748*
ARELLANO UNIVERSITY – Malolos – Rizal Dapecito Campus – Gov. Pascual St., Malolos City – Tel. No. 931-3099 or 931-8180
ARELLANO UNIVERSITY – Andres Bonifacio Campus – Pajo ave. St., Caloocan, Pasay City – Tel. No. 840-7713, 831-2488 or 852-1210
ENROLLMENT FOR 2ND SEM SY 2009-10 IS NOW GOING ON

GMA forms body vs climate change

By TJ Burgonio

AS THOUSANDS GRAPPLE WITH THE DEVASTATION WROUGHT by the recent strong storms, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday enacted into law a bill establishing the Climate Change Commission that will draw up an action plan against global warming.

Ms Arroyo signed into law the Climate Change Act of 2009 before a crowd of Congress leaders, foreign dignitaries, government officials, and even national adversaries at Malacañang's Ricol Hall.

"The signing into law of the Climate Change Act reflects in a new era in the way the Philippines will tackle disaster change to limit the short and long terms, for the benefit of Filipinos today and for Filipinos yet unborn," the President said in statements.

The signing came as Metro Manila and northern Luzon reeled from the rash of destruction left by Tropical Storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" that killed hundreds of people, and destroyed millions of dollars worth of crops and infrastructure.

Malacañang officials had blamed disaster change for the extremely heavy rainfall dumped by the storms which inundated a vast swath of the metropolis and triggered heavy flooding and landslides in the rest of Luzon.

Republic Act 9729 seeks to set up the Climate Change Commission, whose main job is to map out an action plan to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to integrate climate change in the formulation of government policy.

Some P50 million from the President's contingent fund will be appropriated as initial operating fund of the commission. The law allows the body to accept foreign grants-in-finance for programs.

The body will have three commissioners who will be appointed by the President and serve for six years.

Within six months, the body is to be chaired by the President, will formulate a framework strategy on climate change, a sort of a road map to combating the adverse evil climate change.

The commission will have an advisory body composed not only of Secretaries of different departments, but also the heads of the League of Provinces, League of Cities, League of Municipalities, Liga ng mga Barangay representatives from the academe, business and non-government organizations.

With its creation, the Presidential Task Force on Climate Change and the Inter-Agency Committee on Climate Change are abolished, and their functions absorbed by the commission.

After a year, the commission will map out a national climate action plan that includes an assessment of the impact of climate change, specifically on the poor, women and children, identification of vulnerable localities, and identification of strategies to lower greenhouse gas emissions, dried out disaster risk reduction and management, among others.

"It's sad that Ondoy and Pepeng had to happen before this adaptation to climate change law is given attention. But Malacañang we have a permanent commission that will implement programs against climate change," said Sen. Loren Legarda, one of the principal authors.

In her view, the body's creation will help with providing technical and financial support to local governments to better understand effects of rising sea levels, changing landscapes, droughts, floods and storms.

The commission is tasked with crafting climate change in the development plans of the government in "synergy with water and environment" programs of national government, including disaster risk reduction, and recommending relevant legislation, among others.

But more importantly, it will represent the country in climate change negotiations.

"The new law is important in the sense that it will help pull together a lot of disparate efforts to address climate impacts," Sen. Ma. Lorenzo Tan of the Worldwide Fund for Nature said in an interview. "It sets the stage for climate change to have a prominent impact on the way government plans are made."

HANDOG SALE 2009
OCTOBER 16 TO 31
www.yupangco.com
Visit any Yamaha Music Stores or Perfect Pitch Stores nationwide for more details.
PRS CTI LACK Permit No. 0311 Series of 2009

THIS DRAWS THE LINE.

4JJ1-TC
iTEQ 3.0L
Common Rail
Diesel Engine

There are engines, and then there are diesel engines, which have been proven better in terms of thermal efficiency, lower emission and durability. But when it comes to unmatched diesel engine technology, Isuzu draws the line.

A pioneer in a number of cutting-edge developments such as the direct injection system, turbocharger and intercooler, as well as the advancement of electronically-controlled and high-pressure common rail fuel injection system, Isuzu remains relentless in bringing you products that provide the most usable features while balancing durability, power, fuel efficiency & environmental-friendliness. Tried and tested for over half a century, it is no wonder why the name Isuzu is equated to diesel.

This Is What Draws The Line Between Investing And Just Buying.

4JJ1 3.0L

ENGINE
A balance of durability power and fuel efficient engine. A 2nd generation commonrail engine that produces a max output of 145ps at 3800 rpm & 294n-m at 1400-2400 rpm of torque

INTERIOR
The elegant color palette of leather distinctly puts you to a level of sophistication, coupled with the even spacious interior to set you in for a long and enduring ride.

TIRE & WHEEL
245/70 R16; Chrome Finish Alloy at 4X4 only.
All terrain tire.

SUSPENSION
Front: Independent Double Wishbone with Torsion Bar Springs and Stabilizer Bar

Rear: **Flex Ride Move Suspension**, Semi-Elliptical Leaf Springs w/ Telescopic Shock Absorber

SRS AIR BAG
Equipped to provide additional safety to the occupants during frontal collision.

INSTRUMENT PANEL
Electro Luminescent Type w/ Digital Average Consumption Meter Display, Digital Odometer and Tripmeter.

ISUZU D-MAX

Tested Fuel Economy: 42.23kpl*/20.57**

ISUZU ALTERRA

Tested Fuel Economy: 28.39kpl*/19.44**

*Based from the 2004 Isuzu Fuel Challenge results **Based from the ADE run as of 2005

www.isuzuphil.com

ISUZU
Your responsible partner

METRO MANILA ALABANG Tel: (02) 8071788 • COMMONWEALTH Tel: (02) 9522780 to 85 • EDSA Tel: (02) 4138946 • MAKATI Tel: (02) 8432173 • MANILA (02) 5524931 to 15 PASIG Tel: (02) 6713404 • QUEZON AVENUE Tel: (02) 9267111 • **LUZON** BATANGAS Tel: (043) 7782213 • BULACAN (044) 6703352 • CABANATUAN Tel: (044) 4638215 • CAVITE (046) 4722140 ISABELA Tel: (078) 8520038 PAMPANGA Tel: (045) 8617880 • PANGASINAN Tel: (075) 5554691 • SAN PABLO Tel: (049) 5629998 • **VISMIN** BACOLOD Tel: (034) 4412000 CAGAYAN DE ORO Tel: (08822) 728345 • DAVAO Tel: (082) 2973344 • ILOILO Tel: (033) 5067577 • MANDAUE Tel: (032) 3463090

YKK PHILIPPINES, INC.

YKK at 31 - World-Class Zippers na Gawang Pinoy

What do billions of people depend on most of their waking hours without even being conscious about it? What has literally held their clothes and vanity together . . . at home or in public in casual and formal occasions, indoor and outdoors events and in just about any situation?

Zippers, of course. Good old, reliable zippers. Nylon zippers, metal zippers, vision zippers. Short or long, wide or narrow, plain white or metal, heavy duty or designer zippers galore!

"Will you please zip me up?", says the vamp in a Hollywood movie.

"Zipper no baked", a smart girl mocks the boy in a local TV commercial.

You are curious whether our vamp's dress was held together by a YKK zipper. (The movie scene was vintage WWII after all), but chances are the boy's was probably not a YKK.

Why? Because YKK zippers "look somebody nakakilala ko". Indeed, since its founding in 1978 YKK Philippines, Inc. has produced nothing but quality zippers for high-end export brands as well as for the more discriminating local designer products . . . a tribute to the Filipinos' professionalism and exceptional workmanship.

YKK also produces metal buttons, snaps, sliders and hook-and-eye for garments, hook-and-loop fastener for bags and luggage, fashion apparel metal accessories for waist and interior decoration items. And also plastic parts such as cord stoppers, adjusters, D-rings, patches, grip holders and webbing tapes.

However, providing the market with world-class zippers that satisfy the consumer's expectations of durability and quality is the key objective of YKK Philippines, Inc.

The company believes that each and every consumer has the right to get value for money in all purchases that use zippers.

Hence, consumers who buy products that use YKK will be guaranteed endearing moments brought on by some zipper that pops open and saved from extra-mammal trips to the dressmaker or valet for zipper replacements.

On its 31st year serving consumers here and abroad, YKK Philippines, Inc. is proud to say "YKK World-Class Zippers, Gawang Pinoy!"

Global Quality Brands use YKK Zippers

Global brands owe their success to many factors, primary of which is the quality of their product. And when it comes to quality, the initial measure would be the components of the product, meaning, the material selected for use, and the rest of the elements that go into the product's completion.

Local brands with an eye on regional expansion or a larger share of the local market have taken a cue from global brands and observe strict quality choices. Designer products is right alongside.

Little wonder that the birth local or foreign brands, YKK zippers are the products of choice. To mention some of the popular signatures:

• Bench • Candies • Collezione • Dickies
• Pino Leathercraft • Fur Mo • Penguin • Gingersnaps
• Guess • Hanson • Hummel (Bag) • Jag
• Kamiseta • Kashieca • Leather Collection
• Lee • Levi's • Marco • Oxygen
• Penshoppe • Plains and Prints • Rags Local
• Smooth • SOGN • Spandex • Sylvia Sanroa
• Tribal • True Blue • Von Dutch • Wrangler

YKK- Fastening Products Group

YKK's fastening products are manufactured to rigorous quality control standards within a vertically integrated production system. These products have earned us a reputation as a global market leader.

At YKK, we fully understand that our zippers are not end-use items, rather they are critical components within our customer's products. With control in every step of the manufacturing process to ensure quick response, prompt delivery and the highest possible quality at the lowest possible price. We work hard to provide superior service and products along with our effort and innovation.

Our zippers come with special features such as anti-magnetic, nickel-free and lead-free. All in compliance with international standards.

Metal Fastener

The classic metal zippers are made from a variety of various alloys. Available in a wide range of finishes like aluminum, silver, golden brass, antique brass, antique silver and black oxidized. These are commonly used for jeans and trousers.

Vision Fastener

Vision zippers are made from Polyester resin which is injection molded onto tape. A large range of colors and weight are available in this plastic product. A range of anti-coiled vision zippers are also available. Most widely use Vision zippers.

Plastic Fastener

Coiled coil zippers these are made of continuous monofilament of polyester or nylon attached to tape. They are available in a wide range of weights, from Concise, ultra lightweight to super heavy duty. Their versatility makes coil zipper the most popular among slide fasteners. These are used for slacks, skirts, jackets, dresses, and luggage.

YKK also manufacturers metal buttons, snaps, prongs, and hook and eye to complete the versatile garment.

YKK products further include plastic parts such as buckles, hooks, D-rings, cord stoppers, cord ends and webbing tapes.

Mr. Quickie + YKK Zippers = Happy Customers

Mr. QUICKIE, the Shoes and Bags Hospital, was conceived by an entrepreneur named Emiliano B. Camacho III in 1981. Shoe repair is the company's core service. This has been so since Mr. QUICKIE opened its first branch in 1989. In the succeeding years it added complementary services like luggage and bag repair to meet customers' expanding needs.

For quality shoe and bag repair, dyeing and shining, only one name immediately comes to mind: Mr. QUICKIE. The company, indeed, has become synonymous with combining the craftsmanship of good old repairmen and the precision and speed of modern shoe repair equipment and machinery.

At some point Mr. QUICKIE wondered what good might their services be if they didn't have high-quality standards? For a start, they realized that their high-quality service should be paired with high-quality products needed in their repairs. To achieve this, they partnered with reliable, quality-conscious manufacturers around the world.

Today, their partners are famous shoe repair and shoe care industry leaders like Tarrago of Spain, Vibram of Italy, Rubberstock of Germany, and Tapy of France.

Contract signing between Mr. Quickie representative Mr. Emiliano Camacho III (left) and YKK Phil. Inc. represented by its President and CEO Mr. Hiroaki Ishiguro (right).

And now, in its continuing pursuit of service quality and excellence, Mr. Quickie has inked a contract with YKK Philippines, Inc. wherein YKK will provide its branches nationwide with all their zipper and fastening products . . . a remarkable instance of two quality-oriented companies uniting for the benefit of consumers.

Pasabong World-Class,
Gawang Pinoy!

Genuine YKK Zippers now available at the following authorized outlets:

CAROLINA'S
• Glorietta
• SM Megamall
• Ayala

Mulmolin's Ribbon & Lace Center
• House of Decor

Rolexors Trade Commercial Corp.

Morning Glory Co., Inc.

New Modern Sun Holdings, Inc.

YKK
Little Parts. Big Deliverers...

MILF identifies group behind priest's abduction

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) yesterday said it has already identified the group behind the Oct. 11 abduction of Irish priest Father Michael Sinnott in Pagadian City.

But authorities said they were still trying to sift through what the Zamboanga del Sur government termed as overwhelming information on Sinnott's whereabouts and the identity of the group behind his abduction.

The MILF's announcement came while authorities put a reward of P500,000 for information that could help find the kidnapped priest.

Eid Kabalu, MILF civil-military affairs chief, said the efforts of the team they sent out to rescue Simon and find out which group took him had "yielded results."

He named gunmen took Sinnott at his Missionary Society of Saint Columban compound in Pagadian City.

Kabalu credited "several hundreds of Moro fighters, who were directed to identify, locate and rescue the Irish Columban priest" for the positive result of the MILF efforts.

"And we are establishing all these results before we can go public," he said.

Pressed on where the priest's location could be, Kabalu said Sinnott is still "in the area of Lanao del Norte."

He said MILF Peaceful Mindanao Focus Commander Serjin Malicbeng was expected to submit the result of the investigation within the next few days.

Kabalu said the MILF would continue to work with authorities and would not make unilateral decisions to save the ailing priest.

Simon suffers from a heart ailment.

"We are continuously coordinating with the Philippine authorities," Kabalu said.

Allan Mukle, spokesperson of the Zamboanga del Sur Crisis Management Committee, said they were considering all information, including the ones coming from the MILF.

"The Task Force Zubu receives as many information, as many details. It's like they all have seen the priest in their respective places at one time, the priest is seen everywhere," he said.

But Mukle said as of yesterday, there had been no concrete evidence of Sinnott being present in the areas, where he was reported seen.

"It earned our cognizer, but all the information whether believable or unsettled rebellious, we still limit it seriously because there might be some leads," he said.

A government official involved in the ground operation said they have been receiving reports that Sinnott had died in captivity.

"But in the leads we are pursuing now, Sinnott is alive," the source, who requested anonymity, said.

The military earlier said a pirate had kidnapped Sinnott and taken him by boat to the Lanao coast out of Pagadian city.

The military said the pirate may have turned the priest over to a leader of the MILF Bukit 407

Delos Angeles, 12 other Legacy execs charged

By Norman Bordadora

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) found probable cause to charge businessman Celso Delos Angeles and 12 others with syndicated estafa in connection with the Legacy group's failed transactions that drained investors of over P800 million in cash.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said the case involving the Legacy group's then head of Dabili Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative, Inc., based in General Santos City caused the first syndicated estafa charges against Delos Angeles and other Legacy officials.

"The (DOJ) panel of prosecutors found out that the respondents deceived their depositors and the general public through fictitious 'special investment' bank products that guaranteed excessive huge profits," Devanadera said.

These include the double-your-money-in-three-years program, the conversion to three-year pension buy-back program, the five-year discount program and the six-year "hybrid" program.

"They did not make good in their undertaking," Devanadera said.

Syndicated estafa is punishable by life imprisonment and Devanadera said no bail was recommended by the state prosecutors that filed the information before a court General Santos City.

Charged along with Delos Angeles are Christine Asuncion Cruz-Limpin, Wenamira Pureza Sarcia, Carolina Hinolo, Alexis Bertulfo, Roy Hilario, Erico Balbuen, Virgilio Udeja, Arnel Bulquiron, Cresencio Wagan, Jr., Edgar Cataño, Rolando Lobenido and Alfredo Nava.

The DOJ dismissed the case against other Legacy officials Norman Tongson, Jocelyn Cantiado, Clemencio Cebu, Candy Buenaventura and Raniel Hoque. The DOJ said there was no probable cause to charge them.

UK, Irish film wins top Cinemanila award

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Entertainment

"BYSTANDER," A DEEPLY PERSONAL drama from the UK and Ireland, won the Grand Prize Lino Brocka Award in the Main Competition section of the 2009 Cinemanila—the Philippines' only international film festival which ends tomorrow.

The film was the debut directorial work of former theatrical artist Steve McQueen.

Grand Jury Prize went to Sergey Dvortsevoy's "Tulpan"—a German-Swiss-Kazakh production which tells the story of a sheep herder in search of a bride.

Best Actor

Tallie Chelton won Best Actress for playing a grandmother on the verge of dementia in "Hooked's Best Pete Tobey-Peters-Gets-Away."

Alfredo Cuzco won Best Actor for portraying a fifty-something Chilean alcoholic in "Tony Manero."

In the Southeast Asian competition, top prizes went to Malaysian film Sepet. Similarly Thai-set "Tehrvisa" won Best SEA Film, while Best Short SEA Film went to Alberto Ehrhardt and Ali Arthonis's "Found Prints."

Posthumous honor

It was a posthumous honor for Abroad who passed away last July and was also honored with a retrospective in the Pinoy Indie Cinema section.

Special Mention in the SEA section went to the Malaysian-South Korean production, Woo Ming Jin's "Woman on Fire Looks for Water."

Actors cited "Tehrvisa" for "its wit, humor, joy . . . and calm fearlessness in confronting controversial issues" and "Woman on Fire Looks for Water" for "its deeply sensitive portrayal of the complexity of relationships."

Digital Lokal

Cinemanila, now in its 11th year, has a section called Digital Lokal for Filipino filmmakers.

Digital Lokal Lino Brocka Grand Prize went to Christopher Gozum's "Senorbusna." The section's Grand Jury Prize was awarded to Antonio de Leo's "Hijadores Lupa."

Cinema also won Best Director for "Anarkiyaw," his tribute to Pangalinan's art, poetry and culture.

Lifetime achievement

"Tu Mumal Love" topped the Nueng Cinema section, winning both Best Short Film and the inhouse Bernal award for Most Outstanding Young Filipino Filmmaker for director Noreen Braga Dimaculangan.

Lifetime Achievement honor went given to US recipients screenwriter Paul Schrader who presented his latest film "Adam Resurrected" in the 10-day festival being held at the Market! Market! mall in Taguig.

Schrader was honored for his "masterful storytelling and for his body of work, which is an encyclopedic reflection of the human soul and psyche."

The Indie Spirit award was bestowed on Filipino filmmaker Lav Diaz, for "his unwavering and steadfast commitment to independent cinema ... his stark examination of the country and its people in his films ... and for his uncompromising spirit ... which challenges and inspires."

Jurors

The Cinemanila festival showcased at least 80 films from 30 countries.

Main Section jurors were Filipino filmmaker Brillante Mendoza and Indonesian critic Eric Sasono; Digital Lokal jurors were Sonja Holzer of the Berlin film fest, Ulo Saong Yee of the Jeonju film fest and Filipino filmmaker Sherad Anthony Sanchez; SEA section jurors were Filipino actor Bernie Lacson, US programmer Joel Shepard and Singaporean critic/ex-Jeo Thian Tee; Young Cinema jurors were Thai critic King Richdee and Filipino filmmaker John Torres.

ATLANTA PVC RESCUE BOAT
PROTECT YOUR LIVES AND PROPERTIES

GUARDIAN SERIES 6' X 10'
NOAH'S ARK SERIES 4' X 8'

Abaya named new Palace peace adviser

By TJ Burgonio

ABAYA

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday appointed a former presidential spokesman and negotiator, Annabelle Abaya, as the new presidential adviser on the peace process.

Abaya takes over from Avelino Razon Jr., who resigned more than a week ago, to focus on his mayoral candidacy in Manila in next year's national elections.

She had served as spokesperson for then President Fidel V. Ramos in the early 1990s and sat in the government panel in the peace talks with the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) during the Ramos administration.

"There's a direct connection in Cabinet," Press Secretary Jorge Bemudez said in a briefing in reference to the fact that Abaya's job was previously held by Razon, former national police chief and Interior Secretary, former Armed Forces chief.

Facing the Malacañang press, Abaya said she would focus on resuming stalled talks with the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and the communist New People's Army (NPA).

It's also not a possible before Macapagal-Arroyo's term ends on June 30, 2010, she said she hopes she could prepare at least a "framework" for the next administration.

"At the very least... one of the things we need to do is prepare a transition plan, prepare a program and agenda that the new president might be able to look at," she said.

Abaya, who holds master's degree in diplomacy resolution from the University of Massachusetts and a doctorate in conflict resolution from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, said she would also review the peace agreements with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

"So are we going to have another agreement like the [1996] Tripoli Agreement of Autonomy on Ancestral Domain? I don't know what the shape of that agreement will be but certainly I'm sure the [government] negotiators headed by Ambassador Rafael Seguis would shape an agreement together with the [MILF]" she said when asked about the deal to expand the Bangsamoro territory that was rendered by the Supreme Court.

She said the peace process should be seen progressive among presidential aspirants.

Branded Computers at Affordable Prices!
Great Deals on PC Packages

HMR Mandaluyong
HMR SM. Rosa
HMR Cebu
www.hmr.ph
WE SERVICE COMPUTER REPAIRS AND HARDWARE UPGRADES.

GMA, PCCI cite Libanan's reforms

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS cited Immigration Commissioner Nonoy Libanan for helping boost the country's gross domestic products (GDP) this year despite the worldwide economic crisis, through the enactment of pro-investment policies and reforms that increased tourist arrivals, enhanced business development and created employment opportunities.

Libanan received an award from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) for his "commitment to anti-corruption and good governance, reforms and promotion of inward trade, investments and tourism" during the 37th Philippine Conference and Expo held last Wednesday at the Manila Hotel.

In her speech, Mr. Arroyo said the reforms made by Libanan at the Bureau of Immigration (BI) "took the 'bane' out of the government and private sectors working together to spur the country's economic development.

"Our strength comes from our networks. Networking has enhanced our competitive edge," Ms Arroyo stressed.

But Chief Executive also said the reforms that color creating the special visa for employment generation (SVEG) as proposed by Libanan came at a time when the country was affected by the global financial crisis.

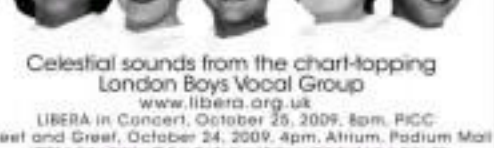
Ms Arroyo added that with the recent horror caused by the two tropical storms that hit the country recently, it is timely for foreign executives and companies employing foreign expatriates in mind Chairperson of the SVEG and provide employment opportunities to help Filipino workers in calamity-hit areas.

Miguel B. Varela, PCCI chair, said the rise upon several projects, together with the other reforms initiated by Libanan in the bureau has been instrumental in helping foreign businessmen gain confidence in the Philippines as investment site.

"Commissioner Libanan has successfully helped the country to be the preferred investment destination for foreign businessmen though his innovative approach such as the gold visa," Varela said.

He added the various reforms initiated by Libanan in the BI have increased the arrival of tourists in the country, created employment opportunities for Filipinos and formed a long-lasting business cooperation between the government and the private sector.

The SVEG program, which is a joint initiative of the PCCI and the BI, allows foreign businessmen with investments in companies that employ at least 10 regular and full-time Filipino workers to indefinitely stay in the country.

presents
LIBERA
LIVE IN MANILA

Celestial sounds from the chart-topping London Boys Vocal Group
www.libera.org.uk
LIBERA in Concert, October 25, 2009, 8pm, PICC
Meet and Greet, October 24, 2009, 4pm, Atrium, Podium Mall

An unforgettable experience — The MUST SEE Concert of 2009!

NEWSBRIEFS

Top US aggie exec due

LEGAZPI CITY (PIA) Secretary Tom Vilsack is arriving in Manila this weekend with top executives of at least 30 American agribusiness firms for a four-day mission aimed at further strengthening trade and investment ties between the two countries in the fields of fisheries, biofuel, poultry and dairy production.

During their visit, Vilsack and members of his delegation are scheduled to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and officials of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, Laguna.

Tomorrow, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney will join the US mission in the trip to Iriri, along with Yap and other DA top officials.

Jerry E. Esplanada

Ateneo de Zamboanga anniversary rites

THE ASSOCIATION (SIA) of Ateneo de Zamboanga University graduates in Metro Manila will celebrate its 20th anniversary and fellowship night on Nov. 7 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati City.

Association President Paulino Pe said one of the major projects of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University Metro Manila Alumni Association (ADZUMMAA) is to continue its assistance to the faculty upgrade program of the school.

Pe said the money raised this year would be used to support deserving faculty members who's joint graduate studies, to with honors university in Metro Manila. Pe said more than a dozen Ateneo de Zamboanga teachers have already benefited from the program.

He also said awards of recognition will be given to association members who have made significant contributions in the association and to the community.

For details, call Ms Germaine Morales at 926-0950 or at 0922-8470648.

PPCRV turns 18 today

THE PARISH Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) turns 18 today. PPCRV was launched in October 1991 as the first nationwide response to the call for renewal and transformation issued by the Catholic Church after the bishops convened the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines in January of that same year.

Ambassador Henrietta de Villa recalled that PPCRV was inspired by the late Haydee Yorac then acting chair of Comelec.

To date the PPCRV has participated in some 22 electoral exercises as the accredited Citizens' Arm of the Commission on Elections, gathering as many as 450,000 volunteers during national and local elections.

Juna Luna's birth

THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY of the birth of Juan Luna will be commemorated today at the Juan Luna Shrine in his hometown Badoc, Ilocos Norte.

Activities which include a memorial mass, flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremonies, and a commemorative program will highlight the celebration.

Known as a consummate artist, Juan Luna pursued his interests in the art capitals of the world — Rome, Paris and Madrid.

He received numerous awards for winning prestigious international art competitions in Europe and the United States. King Alfonso of Spain, impressed with his talent, gave "El Beso de Lepanto" for hang in the halls of the Spanish Senate.

In 1883 he painted the "Spoliarium" which won the gold medal at the National Exposition of Fine Arts in Madrid the following year.

Fr. 'Buddy' Durnan, 60

FR. GIL JACOB "Buddy" Coman of Palo, Leyte died Sunday after a lingering illness. He was 60.

He is survived by his children, Marita and siblings Ms. Bella, Lino, Jr. Ricardo SVD, Ms. Dolina, Ma. Leah, Ma. Annabelle and Edgardo and employees and cousins.

His remains lie at the Cathedral Shrine and Good Shepherd Parish in Bingabello Sta. Cruz Obrero Ave. in Katipunan, Quezon City. On Monday, his remains will be brought to Palo, Leyte.

Dela Cruz, 70

AMARITA Clemente dela Cruz of San Isidro st., Bulacan died Oct. 20 at the age of 70.

She is survived by husband Leonardo; children Cleopatra, Cleto and Leah Mae; grandchildren Kris, Kyle, Cyril, Ron Ron, Allyan, Rhiland and Leigh Dela.

Her remains lie at the Clemente residence, Malipampang, San Ildefonso, Bulacan. Interment is on Oct. 25.

Gordon eyes use of idle gov't lots for rehab

SEN. RICHARD GORDON has called for sustained relief and rehabilitation efforts to ease the plight of those dislocated by typhoons and help put the country's economy back on track.

Noting that typhoons are among those severely displacing, Gordon has suggested the use of government-owned vacant lots and buildings as relocation sites for manufacturers and entrepreneurs.

"How manufacturers and other businessmen, particularly in Marikina and Laguna, have already lost income and possible profits because they are unable to continue manufacturing their products as floods remain in several areas," he said.

The lawmaker, a strong advocate of volunteerism in disaster mitigation programs, lamented that the spate of typhoons that ravaged the flow of trade and commerce, requiring immediate and sustained government intervention.

Gordon, also Philippine National Red Cross chair, said unutilized lots and empty buildings of the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) and other government agencies can be used by entrepreneurs "so they can get back to business in time for the Christmas season."

He described as "good spots" Peza's buildings in Laguna, especially those along the Manila East Luzon Expressway (Mele), because they are accessible to traders.

PDA employees hand donated goods to calamity victims.

RP faces more calamities as temperatures rise

By Amy R. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES MAY EXPERIENCE more typhoons, floods, droughts, heat waves and declines in crop production in coming years if governments worldwide fail to curb the adverse effects of climate change.

The consequences that will follow if global average temperatures rise by as much as 4 degrees Celsius are illustrated in a map launched in London yesterday by the British government.

The map was launched in the run-up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December aimed at coordinating international action against climate change and devote not a global deal on climate change.

"Today and Peping gave us a glimpse of what's in store for us if we neglect climate change," said Colin Crothia, charge d'affaires of the British Embassy.

"Food shortage, disease and conflict are a real but not inevitable," he said.

Crothia reminded the UK government's commitment to the Philippine by passing the Climate Change Act, which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law yesterday.

"We also welcome the Philippines strong stand on climate change issues in the international stage," he added.

Crothia said the British government was pressing for the most ambitious deal possible in Copenhagen to avoid these dangerous impacts.

In particular, the UK government is aiming for an agreement that would help limit increases in global temperatures to only 2 degrees Celsius.

"Increases of more than 2 degrees will have huge impacts on the world," Crothia said.

The map showed that the average land temperatures could reach 5.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

It also highlighted the severe effects of extreme temperatures on water availability and agricultural productivity and the risk of large fire and sea-level rise.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said in a statement that the world cannot cope with a 4-degree increase in global temperatures.

PDI distributes relief goods in Pangasinan

A THOUSAND FAMILIES IN BARANgay Poblacion West in Urdaneta, Pangasinan were the latest beneficiaries of the Inquirer relief drive for victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and "Pepeng."

"It's the first time for the barangay to receive relief goods," said Magi Garcia of Inquirer Corporate Affairs, who led the group of Inquirer volunteers in distributing relief packs yesterday (Friday). "The area is no longer flooded, but we saw how their houses have been destroyed."

Wind was already picking up in the area when the Inquirer group arrived, and the residents had already been informed about the plans they could evacuate in the event that the storm does in their area again in anticipation of typhoon "Santi."

"They've already swapped some of their things with plastic and stored them in higher areas inside their houses," Garcia said. "One of them even built a hole in a wall of their house so that the water could not rise inside it," she added.

Shortly past 9:00 a.m. on Friday, 1,000 families have already received relief packs consisting rice, canned goods, biscuits, noodles, water, coffee and sugar in affected areas of Brgy. Quezon City Marikina, Taguig in Metro Manila and provinces of Laguna, Rizal, Bulacan, and Pangasinan from the relief drive.

To date the drive has received around P3.3 million in cash donations and several donations in kind, including rice and water, from individuals and corporate alike.

The latest donors in the relief drive include the DLP Foundation, Ayta Gerardo, Florentino Hontan, Carlos Bulan, Rudy Sotioco, WOC Frontier, Inc., Gudoweski family, Makati Shangri-La and Wilhelmina Corp.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 24, 2009
29th Week in Ordinary Time
Ordinary Mary Chant

1st Reading: Rom 8:1-11
Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

Some persons told Jesus who had incurred in the Temple. Pilate had Galileans killed and their blood mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus replied, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did.

And these eighteen persons in Siloam who were crushed when the tower fell, do you think they were more guilty than all the others in Jerusalem? I tell you: no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did."

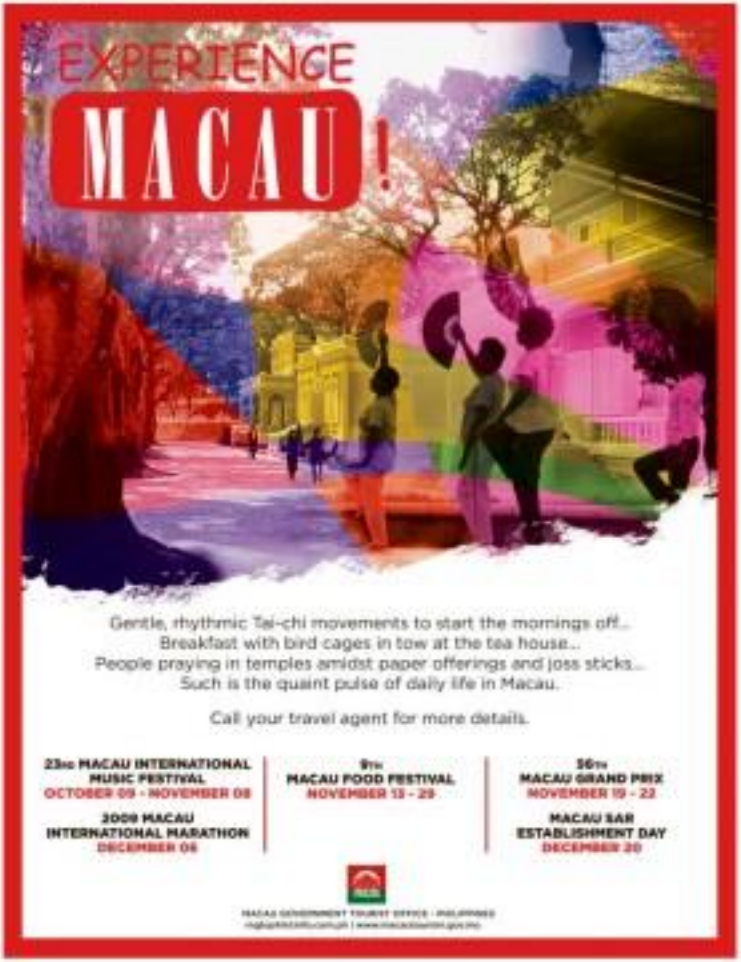
And Jesus continued with this story, "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it, but found none. Then he said to the gardener, 'Look here, for three years now I have been looking for figs on this tree and I have found none. Cut it down, why should it take up the ground?' The gardener replied: 'Leave it one more year, sir, then I may dig around it and add some fertilizer; and perhaps it will bear fruit from now on. But if it doesn't, you can cut it down.'"

Commentary

Anthony Mary Claret was born at Sirh, in Catalonia, Spain in 1807. In 1839, he entered the seminary at Vich. Ordained to the priesthood in 1835, he went to Rome to work for the Propagation of the Faith. His apostolic zeal led him to found a religious congregation of priests preaching conferences for the clergy and publications. In seven years time (30 books. But his publics was limited to the political upheavals of the nineteenth century. His efforts at reform served up a great deal of hostility. He promoted Catholic publications and founded an academy for artists and literary persons.

In 1849, Anthony gathered together five priests, who formed the basis of the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, known as Claretians. In 1850, while he was in Rome preparing for the First Vatican Council, he was placed under house arrest in the Claretian monastery at Fontfroide, where he died at the age of 63. His major work, The Right Way, reached millions of people, promoted fidelity to the gospel among all classes of people, especially among the laity and religious.

Claretian Communications Foundation, Inc., # Mariano St. cor. Phil. Ave., Brgy. Quirino 3A, QC (PO Box # Diliman 1101 Quezon City, Tel. No.: (02) 921-35-60, Fax No.: (02) 921-62-03 e-mail: cf@claret.org Website: http://www.claretianpublications.com (Claretian Publications) & http://claret.philippines.org (Claretian Missionaries) or the Philippine(s) Claretian RENT CENTER: Agnes Mansion Tower, 1005 Agnes Blvd., Cor. Lealtad Heights, Quezon City E-mail: bugnayan@yahoo.com/bugnay@claret.com



People stay home with Ramil being neither here nor there

By Inquirer Northern Luzon

TUGUEGARAO CITY—THE UNcertainty over the landfall of Typhoon "Ramil" has slowed down evacuation operations efforts, with many residents of coastal barangays in Cagayan becoming concerned of the immediate needs to raise their homes.

But provincial disaster response officials were confident that all families awaiting evacuation would be issued in temporary shelters to reduce misery by the time Ramil makes landfall—Friday.

"Almost all of those living in areas identified as danger zones have been evacuated. There are still a few [left], but the [local government] are hands-on in convincing them to evacuate," said Jose Alvarez Antonio, who is also chair of the provincial disaster coordinating council (PDCC).

Apart Mayor Israel Tenazo was announced that the uncertainty over Ramil's impact on his town would encourage evacuees to return to their homes.

"The danger of this typhoon's behavior is once people see that the weather is tolerable, they will let their guard down, only to be caught unprepared once the typhoon releases its full force," Tenazo said.

As of noon yesterday, 342 families from the coastal towns of Aparri, Pamplona, Buguey, Santa Ana and Santa Teresita had been taken to safe grounds, the PDCC said.

"They are being provided food, drinking water, clothing and medicines that we hope would be enough for three to four days," Antonio said.

Pagasa joking?

Intermittent rains poured in southern Cagayan yesterday but these stopped at noon.

By 4 p.m. the sun was shining, causing further confusion among Tuguegarao residents.

"Is this really Signal No. 3? [The weather bureau] must be joking," said college student Bernadette Antonio of Barangay Ugac Sur.

Classes in all levels in Cagayan were suspended yesterday.

No evacuation has yet been ordered in those living on the banks of Cagayan River and the flood-prone barangays of Iguig, Iguig, Alzaga and Atulnang, Amula and Tuguegarao as the water remained below the critical level of 9 metres, PDCC officials said.

The monitoring station at the Rizalan bridge showed the river's water level at 8 metres.

In Isabela, the spill gates of the Magat Dam in Ramon town remained closed.

Engineer Ambient Sid Lacuna said Ramil was barely felt in the province, except for occasional strong winds and intermittent rains.

"It's like there is no typhoon. It's just like the regular rainy season," he said.

Interim protocol

In Pangasinan, National Power Corp. has issued an interim protocol in releasing excess water from the San Roque Dam.

The protocol includes the lowering of the dam's water level to 279 meters above sea level (masl) as insurance for capability for flood control. Its normal high water level is 280 masl.

Napocor and the San Roque Dam manager's curse under fire for the opening of the dam's six gates when the water level was nearing its critical mark of 280 masl at the peak of Tropical Storm "Pepeng."

Local officials said the water released into the river following of 38 Pangasinan towns and cities on Dec. 8-10.

Under the interim protocol, the dam will release water at 500 cubic meters per second (cms) once the level reaches 278 masl and there will be continuous monitoring of the water inflow level of rainfall and typhoons path.

A primary warning will be issued on the Pangasinan PDCC, local governments and the media six hours before the water release.

The amended rules will be implemented in anticipation of Ramil. Reports from Melvin Gascon, Estrellita Calubo, Filomenio Fiesta Jr., Yolanda Estrada and Maricel Medenilla, Inquirer Northern Luzon

SAFE AND WARM Two-month-old King Benedict is cradled by his mother Marivic Estampa as a makeshift bed inside the Cagayan State University in Aparri where they sought shelter from Typhoon "Ramil." AFP/CESAR RAMIREZ

'Very erratic Ramil' weakens, confuses weathermen, heads for Taiwan

From page A1

ward to Taiwan.

A high-pressure area near Hong Kong that had heavily influenced Ramil's behavior in the past days continued to block its path toward the west and forced it to drift up north, Pagasa chief Dr. Prisco Nilo said yesterday after noon.

But in the small seaside town of Aparri, Ramil continued to make its presence felt with gale-force winds that threatened to rip up roofs that residents long used to storms had firmly secured.

Early yesterday morning, 20-liter waves crashed on the seawall of Barangay Punta at the junction of Cagayan River and the sea. Coupled with the roaring winds was a driving, almost horizontal rain.

In Barangay San Antonio, angry waves crashed into the seawall, mantling residents and sending salt spray into their homes.

The situation was worse in Patata, where three houses were lost to the endless battle to hack seaside "Dadoy" and "Pepeng."

"First, Pepeng took the front of each. Now, Ramil is taking the cement structures," said resident Virgie Hilleno.

Almost stationary

Overnight, the high-pressure area over Hong Kong moved south and gained strength, leaving Ramil to significantly slow down until it became almost stationary off the coast of Cagayan.

At 5 p.m. yesterday, Ramil was still almost stationary, standing at one kilometer per hour toward the north. It had been hovering at 110 km east northeast of Aparri for the last six hours.

With Ramil's latest movement, Nilo said landfall was almost certain. But he warned against thinking that the country had been "spared."

Ramil was further described as a powerful superTyphoon as it packed maximum winds of 205 kph late last week.

"We can't say that we've been spared because things can still change. That's why we are monitoring its movement for the next six to 12 hours," Nilo said.

The landfall that northern Luzon officials and residents had been anticipating since last week would already be "inevitable," Cruz said.

He said the more immediate concern was that the nearly stationary typhoon could bring enemy weather, severe surges, huge waves and gale-force winds over the western section of northern Luzon and parts of Central Luzon.

Don't let guard down

Pagasa said occasional rains were expected in Ilocos and Bicol in the areas, the Visayas group of islands, Aparri and the cities of Tuguegarao and Baguio.

Nilo called on rural disaster and control teams, as well as residents to aware that Ramil was earlier predicted to hit, not to let their guards down.

"There's no 100-percent forecast that would say what would exactly happen. We should have a bias toward the side of caution to avoid casualties. If we [take] a wait-and-see attitude, we'd have more casualties," he said.

Nilo said the abnormal behavior of Ramil, Pepeng and Ondoy indicated a changing trend in tropical cyclones.

"We are anticipating this kind of pattern in the coming months and years. That's why we have to be very alert in monitoring tropical cyclones," he said.

In Pagasi's latest weather bulletin, Ramil was packing maximum sustained winds of 185 kph near the center with gustiness of 225 kph.

It was expected to hit 105-km northeast of Aparri by this afternoon and 115 km northeast of Aparri by tomorrow afternoon and 160 km north northeast of Aparri by Monday afternoon.

Nilo also said it would not yet be determined when Ramil would leave the Philippine area of responsibility because of its very slow movement.

Soothing wail

But in Barangay Punta in Aparri, residents continued to watch feverishly to erect a seawall, bag wall in place of a seawall.

Some used weathered-up bamboo and logs to secure their homes.

"The sea is already near the houses. That's the problem [why] a storm stays so long," said barangay councilor Bonifacio Vignon.

Saul Virgie Villeno "This is the first time a storm has stayed this long, with the sea raising this much in one area."

Both Vignon and Villeno told the bureau that they waited Ramil would not hurt, thus whispering typhoon.

"There is nothing much we can do. That's how strong the storm is... The people are pacific," Villeno said.

In Barangay Binam, some 280 residents have been evacuated from their homes and taken to the Cagayan State University (CSU).

Aaron Lose, 21, and his wife Marilou, 18, were one of the first to be evacuated. When the heavier rained, Marilou was nursing their two-month-old son Benedict.

"The sun was already coming into our house. So we decided to leave before the whole house collapsed," Marilou said.

Home for now

The nearby Aparri School of Fisheries and Trades is also accommodating evacuees for the Mount Hill. A 20-square-meter classroom has become home for 11 families.

"What we have here are women and children. The men folk are back in their homes to see what they can save. As regards to the men come here," Vignon said.

With the children wailing in the background, barangay officials told the business of their evacuees for sanitation.

"We keep telling them to clean up and keep their surroundings clean so the children don't get sick," Vignon said.

From page A1

Ulam East

Macabalikad, a father of two, looked distraught and shook his head.

But he immediately went to work. He borrowed three morning gabi-nized iron sheets from his uncle and headed home to scrap his hut with a couple of semi-sized branches from a gumihan tree felled by Pepeng.

"We have no money to buy new roof sheets, so we have to be resourceful for us to survive this typhoon. We hope things will get better," he said.

Macabalikad's family was one of those who received a bag of relief goods... 2 kilos of rice, four packs of instant noodles and three cans of sardines...a day after Pepeng struck earlier. It

CAGAYANOS SELF-RELIANCE Residents of Barangay Maura in Aparri, Cagayan try to clear the damage wrought by heavy waves by piling sandbags along the shoreline and defend their homes on Friday. AFP/CESAR RAMIREZ

Cagayan, who, in a crisis or calamity, would rather trust for themselves than depend on the government for help, according to Gov. Alvaro Antonio.

"We have noted that our town government here do not always point the national government with requests for funds. They try to make full use of their calamity funds, which, they believe, are more than enough for their installments," Antonio said.

Ravaged by almost each of the average 21 typhoons that hit the country yearly, the people of Cagayan have learned to live with extreme weather conditions. The province has also posted the highest temperature nationwide.

"Typhoons come and go. We prepare for them, we live through them and we rise above. It is those kinds of experience that somehow made us tough," Antonio said.

Zero casualty

And it is this resilience that helped Cagayanos endure the wrath of Pepeng and emerge without a typhoon-related casualty—a result that did not appear provincial officials.

Antonio cited the high level of preparedness of the towns' disaster coordinating councils, which quickly put into gear the measures designed to save lives and minimize damage.

Melchiza Guiam, director of the Office of Civil Defense in Cagayan Valley, observed that in previous typhoons, many residents refused to evacuate despite orders to evacuate, sought refuge in the houses of relatives or friends.

"It was less of a burden for the government. By not going to the evacuation centers, they seemed to send us the message that we should not worry about them because they could still take care of themselves," Guiam said.

But even as the entire province was bracing for the devastation of another strong typhoon in the past three days, its people still carried out relief work for those among their whose lives were destroyed by Pepeng.

Classes were suspended at the University of Saint Louis of Tuguegarao (USLT) on Thursday. Yet when the business started the campus, a number of students were busy packing relief goods for distribution to residents of the remote barangay of Ginape Iguig.

"They have practically everything in the flood...their house, their crops. It's really heartbreaking," university executive Maria Sheralyn Tuma said of the intended beneficiaries.

Dr. Emmanuel James Pattugalan, USLT vice president for administration, said the university also engaged its relief efforts for victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in Metro Manila and for their province mates.

Only one request

After a briefing with local disaster management officials on Wednesday, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. said the Cagayan folk had only one request. And it concerned their crops.

"All they want is some assurance on how they can start anew, go back to farming. I will relay this to [Agriculture] Secretary [Arthur] Yap so we can come up with rehabilitation plans for these farmers," Teodoro said.

The Cagayan State University (CSU) is also doing its share to help the people cope with the latest disaster.

According to Dr. Roger Perez, the CSU president, students may take their final examinations for the first semester next week despite their failure to finish their notices.

In addition, they may enroll for the second semester without paying any fees, under CSU's "enroll now, pay later" program.

"They can enroll and pay the fees when their families' finances allow it, even after two or three years," Perez said.

Defections of more GMA allies seen

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE NACIONALISTA PARTY SEES an exodus of administration allies and they are all headed for the NP camp.

Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., the NP standard-bearer for 2010, announced yesterday that the party would have a complete national and local lineup.

Interviewed by radio station dzBB, Villar said he also had a "new" running mate, but won't reveal the latter's identity so as not to preempt the formal announcement.

Pastors on air: But the Villar camp has been courting Sen. Loren Legarda of the Nacionalista Party-Liberal Coalition to be his running mate.

"We have a save [vice presidential candidate]... but we will announce it at the right time," said Villar, adding that the party was busy completing its senatorial slate.

"I guess the slate would be completed in two weeks. We will make a formal announcement in the first or second week of November," he said.

The senator added that the NP had been successful in convincing administration allies to declare as his camp.

So far, four provincial governors and over a thousand mayors and local officials around the country have sworn allegiance to the NP.

"On Thursday, a leader from the turf of Cebu took an oath before the NP," said Villar, referring to a supporter in Barlo City of Debesa Secretary Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., the presumptive presidential candidate of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

"Last month alone, almost 300 mayors took their oath. This is an addition to the 300 who took their oath last month," he said.

According to NP spokesperson and former Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, the current turncoats and the envoy of many more in the days to come showed the resilience of Villar as a presidential candidate.

"The Nacionalista Party department is going to be to full swing between now and the May elections. Already, we are seeing governors of big provinces pledging their support for Sen. Manny Villar as president," he said.

The likes of Governor Robert "Bet" Barbers of Surigao del Norte, Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur, Regalito Espino of Bilaran and Lolo Reynaldo Samuel "JDag" Villaluerte Jr. of Camarines Sur "pave the curving elections to proper perspective. 2010 will be about concrete programs for the poor and not charity photo opportunities in Pateros," Remulla said.

Erap's name to remain in list of candidates

By Kristine L. Alave

EXPECT THE SAME JOSEPH Ejercito Estrada to be on your 2010 ballot — regardless of whether a decision strikes the former president off the list of those allowed to run.

Comelec Chair Jose Melo said yesterday the poll body would not exclude Estrada's name from the list of candidates should the Supreme Court fail to rule on the legality of his candidacy before the deadline for ballot preparations set for Jan. 7.

By that time, according to the Comelec's calendar, all names and other details that are to appear on ballots should be ready for printing.

If a complaint concerning Estrada's run was filed before the Comelec and the poll body upheld it, it would not mean that Estrada was out of the race, Melo said.

Estrada's camp could still run to the Supreme Court for final ruling, he said.

"Our decision is not final. We cannot remove his name. What if the Supreme Court decides he is qualified?" Melo asked.

"Say name would win. If the Court decides for the complainant, the votes for him would not be counted," he said.

Estrada, an opposition stalwart who was elected as president in 1998, declared on Wednesday that he would seek his former post again next year, with Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay as his running mate.

Estrada, ousted in January 2001 in a bloodless revolt amid allegations of corruption, was not able to finish his term.

After being held in post-trial house arrest while undergoing trial, he was convicted of plunder by the Sandiganbayan in 2007, but was pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo the same year.

Critics of the ousted president say he is banned from seeking another term under the 1987 Constitution, but Estrada is of the opinion that he is qualified to run again in the May 2010 elections.

Comelec eyes total gun ban

By Kristine L. Alave

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ELECTION HISTORY, politicians will not be allowed private bodyguards when the election campaign—now just with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) dipping to only 90 days—commences.

Comelec Chair Jose Melo said the nationwide gun ban would be aimed at lessening election-related violence during the campaign period.

The official campaign period for candidates running for national offices starts on Feb. 9, 2010. The campaign period for local elections begins on March 26.

Melo said the poll body agreed to a towering last week to implement the ban upon the recommendation of the Philippine National Police.

Only members of the diplomatic corps and the president, who has her own Presidential Security Group, will be exempt from the ban.

"It's about time that we have total gun ban. The only exception is the President and maybe the Vice President," Melo said.

In past elections, civilians who felt the need to carry firearms during the campaign period were allowed to do so after getting an exemption from the Comelec.

TRAFFIC
ADVISORY

The University of Santo Tomas will hold the UST Entrance Test (USTET) for AY 2010-2011 on **OCTOBER 25, 2009 (SUNDAY)** from **8:00 am to 12:00 nn** and **2:00 pm to 6:00 pm**

Due to the big number of examinees, HEAVY TRAFFIC within the vicinity of the University, particularly España, Dapitan, A.H. Lacson, and P. Noval Streets, IS EXPECTED.

The public is advised to take alternative routes.

Thank you for your understanding.

Pontificia Universidad Católica
UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS
The Catholic University of the Philippines

Environmental woes blamed on RP's huge population

By Michelle V. Remo

AN ECONOMIST FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines has tagged the country's obesity-growing population as one of the factors that worsen environment-related problems.

Ernesto Pernia, former chief economist for the Philippines at the Asian Development Bank, said the environmental problems that recently led to hundreds of casualties would not have been as severe had the country's populations been controlled.

"Rapid population increase [has] contributed as one of the factors contributing to the country's environmental problems. The capacity of the country's ecology is already stretched to the limit," Pernia told the Inquirer in an interview.

He said the country's huge population, estimated at around 92 million, was one reason for overcrowding in the urban areas. In turn, overcrowding had hard to difficulty in managing wastes.

"The consequence of unabated migration to urban areas is haphazard human settlement. Too many people are staying in areas that should not be a place for settlement, like riverbanks, bridge waterways, and estuaries [where] unfortunately," Pernia said.

Climate change, caused by carbon emissions mostly from industrialized nations, was considered a major culprit for the heavy rains that led to hundreds of deaths in Metro Manila and northern provinces. However, Pernia said, factors that were within the Philippines' control also worsened the impact of the heavy rains and the massive flooding they caused.

Pernia said population growth, together with weak urban planning, degradation of forests, poor disaster-preparedness and weather-forecasting systems, made the environmental problem worse.

The country's population growth rate is currently estimated at 2.1 percent, faster than the latest economic growth recorded at 1.5 percent in the first half of this year.

Pernia said that with the country's population already nearing 100 million, a zero population growth rate would be ideal.

According to Pernia, the government has been outspoting the country's economic growth and its capacity to avoid recession but what should be of gravest concern is the declining per capita income growth.

Per capita income is the total income of the economy, usually measured in terms of gross domestic product (GDP), divided by the country's population; it basically measures the share of each individual in the country's income.

The fact that population growth was already faster than the GDP growth means that per capita growth had already been declining, Pernia said. This placed the Philippine worse off than countries who had fallen into recession, but whose population growth was slower than the decline in their GDPs.

Teacher who set out to move alongside their students and encourage them to develop, take responsibility for their actions, own their own goals etc., are likely to be more successful than those who set out to "save" or "fix" their students with a more prescriptive approach. But most teachers these days are at a loss on how to avoid being "prescriptive" in their approach and make a impact in their students lives.

Here's a seminar that will focus on so much more than just teaching. It will focus on YOU, and as a result every student who walks through your classroom door for the rest of your career will be infected by your enthusiasm for life, your commitment for making a difference, and your courage to take a chance on the great potentials that reside within each of us.

Join fellow educator and multi-awarded teacher, E.J. McKnight, as he shares his 25-year teaching experience and secrets on how he influences the lives of his students at the

THEY CALL YOU "TEACHER"
A Look At Your Profession From a Different Perspective
November 14, 2009 | 8:30am - 12:30pm | AIM Conference Center

Facilitated by E.J McKnight
2 time Teacher of the Year Awardee
recipient of "Excellence in Teaching" award from National Education Foundation USA

"I consider E.J. McKnight to be one of those extraordinary people who always puts forth a wholehearted effort... with amazing results."
- Ms. Frances Dayton, Principal, West Riverside Elementary School

Discover all these and more!
- Learn about yourself as a teacher and the many myths and lies that are affecting you daily
- Learn why you do what you do, and how you can change any debilitating behaviors.
- See how you can affect more students and have more by developing a stimulating curriculum, making room for creativity and by creating internal discipline in your classroom
- Find a renewed enthusiasm for all aspects of your life.

REGISTER YOUR SEATS TODAY!

Leptospirosis cases hit 2,046

THE NUMBER OF LEPTOSPIROSIS CASES caused by floods spawned by Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog in the past few weeks is now more than double the number of cases monitored by the health department nationwide for the whole of 2008.

Statistics gathered by the Department of Health showed that there are now 2,046 cases of leptospirosis after Ondoy's heavy rains on Sept. 26 caused massive flooding in the National Capital Region and in nearby provinces such as Rizal and Laguna.

There are now 137 deaths, according to the DOH's National Epidemiology Center.

The DOH has taken steps to prevent the further spread of the disease caused by swallowing or absorbing contaminated water through cuts in the skin. The infection is commonly transmitted to freshwater tainted by the urine of rats and other animals.

The health department has started a program to provide doxycycline prophylaxis treatment to protect individuals from the illness characterized among others by fever, jaundice, vomiting and fatigue.

The DOH has also allotted P60 million to subsidize the treatment of those stricken with the water-borne disease in government hospitals and the private hospitals.

Norman Bordadora

CABINA PLATFORM Sen. Loren Legarda gestures as she announces her bid for the vice presidency in the 2010 elections at the Rizal Park in Luneta on Friday. But she needs overcoming her political inexperience during her speech as she says she does not want to cater her green agenda with politics. (STORY BELOW)

SMALL BUSINESS, BIG BUSINESS Ma Imelda Pumy Marcos-Araneta (center) Sen. Manuel Villar Jr. examines a product of one of the 68 promising entrepreneurs under the "Pondo sa Pagbag, Pahusan at Pinoy" project of Villar. The program aims to promote entrepreneurship as ways of combating poverty. Winners who received cash awards are Ruth Dela Cruz of Calaoan, Pangasinan, who makes and sells "Puto Calaoan," and Elsa Tomas of Quirino province who's also in the food products business. Other winners get P30,000 each during the program held at NBC Tent at The Fort in Taguig. (KEN ALBA)

Palace 'absolves' Gibo: No 'political urgency' to quit post

By TJ Burgonio and Jocelyn R. Uy

UNLIKE PUBLIC WORKS SECretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro is not too eager to campaign, and therefore does not need to quit the Cabinet just yet, according to Malacañang.

Gabriel Claudio, the presidential political adviser, said there was no "political urgency" for the administration's presumptive presidential standard-bearer to resign as he is doing so to the job of overseeing the rehabilitation of disaster-stricken areas.

Claudio said he believed Ebdane, who has declared his presidential candidacy, resigned because he couldn't wait to get into "campaign mode" before 2010.

"It's different in the case of Secretary Teodoro" who remains "very focused" on his job as chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, said Claudio.

"We can see that he doesn't go around to campaign, and he is hardly seen in the media dealing with political matters," he said.

When situation naturalizes

Teodoro can consider quitting when the situation normalizes, said Claudio, the secretary general of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

The ruling party is set to proclaim Teodoro and his running mate as well as the senatorial candidates at its convention on the second week of November.

Comparisons have been made in the supposedly glaring difference in the Executive Department's treatment of Teodoro and Ebdane.

A day after Ebdane made public his resignation letter last week, President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed her adviser on new government centers, Victor Domingo, as his replacement.

Ebdane said he saw quitting his post to seek the presidency and avoid any conflict-of-interest issues. He also spoke of "barriers" stopping him from joining the relentless pursuit of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD.

By contrast, Teodoro exercised to keep his post with nary a reminder from Malacañang that he should think about resigning.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said it was for Teodoro to decide when the proper time for him to resign.

"It's his call. When a storm hits and you resign, they will say you have no sense of responsibility," he said.

Different standards

Ermita denied that Malacañang was applying different standards for Ebdane and Teodoro.

"Like was the position of an official act of the party. That was the choice of leadership, and therefore in order not to sow confusion, Secretary Ebdane took it upon himself to see the second straight," he said.

Ermita also defended Ms Arroyo's decision to immediately name a replacement for Ebdane.

Teodoro himself yesterday said he would time his post goodbye in the second week of November after he has effected the transition of relief and reconstruction efforts.

"I don't think it would be fair at this time just to leave it behind," he said.

"The preparatory work for the transitions that will handle it is under way. But as soon as I can, I will let go," he said.

Exit plan

But it would also depend on what happens with Typhoon "Ramil," which was hammering northern Luzon even as he spoke, Teodoro said.

"I will just have to plan my exit and hope I will get out as soon as possible," he said.

Asked to comment on Ebdane's plans, Teodoro said: "I will not begrudge a person who wants to legitimately run for the presidency if he really thinks he wants to do so."

He said he was not at all bothered that a former Cabinet colleague was running against him.

"He has his constituencies and I have mine ... the results of the exact votes and some balloting are clear that I have a solid base of support within administration," he pointed out.

Loren looking for No. 1, but who he?

From page A1

It was also curious that Legarda did not specifically mention that she was running for vice president during her 20-minute speech. She made that declaration at the press conference following her speech.

Legarda made the announcement amid speculations that she was being counted by the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD to be the vice-presidential running mate of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro. (See related story on Page A2.)

"Based on my consultations, I have decided to run for higher office as vice president," the senator said before a gathering of thousands of her supporters, participants and the beneficiaries of her outreach program, "Lingkod Loren."

"I have heeded the call of the people and I want to continue my humanitarian mission and climate work. I am running for VP because you elected me in 2004 and voted for me along with PPJ, but I was not allowed to serve my term," she added.

It was also four years and five months after the 2004 elections that Legarda sought the same elective post, a bid which she said her presidential running mate, the late popular movie star Pax, had in President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro.

Determined to win

This time, Legarda said she was "determined to win" for the sake of present and future generations.

"Your interest knows the question troubling you tonight: Will Loren declare? The answer of your humble servant: Yes, I am declaring now. I am running for vice president," Legarda said.

She said she had chosen Rizal Park in the Luneta as she sensed for "the most important anniversary of Doña Elly" to provide a fitting backdrop to her environmental advocacy.

"It is here in Luneta that I planted a thousand trees in 1998 as part of my environmental advocacy. Since then, over two million trees had already been planted. Tonight, I ask you to join me in planting the seeds of hope for all of us," she said.

She said she wanted to do this in every major place in the country.

"Unseen is true for trees. This is where I planted the first 1,000 trees, which now has grown to 2 million trees all over the Philippines. This is where we will plant the seeds of hope," she said.

Four hours before the much-anticipated announcement, Legarda launched a humanitarian mission that included her most important advocacies: jobs, environment and health. She also hosted a job fair, gave away seedlings and provided free breast screening and mammograms.

There were films shown on climate change and disaster risk reduction, free eye checkups, free international calls for families of overseas Filipino workers and free haircuts.

Platform of government

The senator said that after Tropical storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng" brought Philippines down on their knees, there was no better time than now to show their resiliency and get back on their feet.

"We may have fallen, but we will rise and become even stronger," she said.

She said her "green" platform consisted of "a strong commitment to help mitigate the effects of climate change, a strong anticorruption stance and honest-to-goodness public service."

"We need a green platform. Let's change how politics is being run in this country. The people should know your advocacies and what they can get from you," she said.

In her 20-minute speech delivered in Filipino, Legarda stressed the need not only to revive the Filipino spirit, but also the Filipino's self-respect and sense of patriotism.

She also identified the long-festering problems of the country as being poor to-

HELPING HAND A supporter of Sen. Loren Legarda distracts her arm after the stage buckled under the weight of so many persons during a photo-op with a group of Muslim women. Legarda was quickly taken off the stage by her staff. (STORY ABOVE)

han government marked by unprepared or non-enforcement of laws, vulnerability of livelihood sources to natural areas and ecosystems decline.

"These are the deadly ills that will continue to chain lives and impede national development if we will ignore them, especially now that we are feeling the effects of climate change," she said.

Must-do list

She identified a six-point "must-do" list for the new administration that will come out of the 2010 elections.

First, the country's resources, including government funds, should go toward affording all Filipinos housing, sanitation, potable water, access to medicines and proper health care, education for the youth and skills training.

Second, government must recognize the contribution of Filipino workers by facilitating their gainful employment, providing them ample protection against abuses and by continuously upgrading their skills and knowledge.

Third, the new administration must really crack down on corruption, which wastes the country's limited resources, destroys institutions and undermines the trust of the people and of the international community, including foreign investors.

Fourth, protection of the environment and initiation of pro-active measures to address the problems of climate change and the disasters related to it by strictly following geohazard maps in planning development plans, flood control and solid waste management systems.

Fifth, forge a cultural renaissance for Filipinos rediscover and unite to be energized, rejuvenated and passed on to future generations "because they are what makes Filipinos unique as a people."

ALL-IN FARES AT
EXCEPTIONAL VALUE
World gourmet cuisine
Up to 1080 inflight entertainment options
Inflight service even other airlines talk about
MILAN FROM USD 828
AMSTERDAM / FRANKFURT FROM USD 848
PARIS FROM USD 868
LONDON FROM USD 898
singaporeair.com

Puno quits; ruling party in talks with Loren, Vilma

Front page A1

Following Puno's announcement, leading ruling party officials confirmed that there have been informal talks to convince Santos, a popular movie star, and Legarda to become the running mate of Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, the ruling party's presumptive presidential standard bearer.

Puno yesterday also opted to drop out of the vice presidential race, saying he wanted to focus on the rehabilitation of the areas ravaged by Typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng.

"There will be no more talk about any modification of any sort. I will dedicate myself in the remaining months in the presidency of President Macapagal-Arroyo to serving our people in the way I know best," he told some 500 local executives and police officials attending a disaster preparedness forum in Camp Crame.

Teodoro himself disclosed that aside from Legarda and Santos, the Lakas-Kampi-CMD was also considering another figure whom he declined to identify.

Prospero Pichay, Lakas-Kampi-CMD vice president for accreditation, said Legarda would become Teodoro's running mate if her party, the Nacionalista Party's Coalition, agrees to continue with the ruling party.

He said it wouldn't be difficult to convince Santos even if her husband, Ralph Recto, is a close friend of presidential aspirant Sen. Manuel Villar Jr.

"Remember: It is still a Lakas-Kampi ticket," he said.

Pichay said some party members had been holding informal talks with Santos and Legarda, "on their own."

"This is not sanctioned by the party," he said.

To enhance Teodoro's chances

Reginald Velasco, Lakas-Kampi deputy secretary general, said the party was looking for someone to provide a boost to Teodoro in terms of popularity and experience.

"We believe that Legarda and Santos would enhance Teodoro's chances," he said.

"Either of them will make a good VP," Pichay said. "If any of them decides to become the running mate, then will make a good ballmate. If they win, both will be sensitive to the needs of rural and women."

In a 12-minute speech, Puno said he realized that he was "fed up with politics" during his numerous visits to flood-stricken communities.

"I don't think that I have any more patience with that kind of activity right now. I prefer to set that aside and deal with more important things," he said.

He said he thinks that I have seen one jam too many and too large to swallow and it pains me when I talk politics in the middle of so much misery," he said.

He also denied rumors that his decision was an offshoot of purported infighting within the ruling coalition and supposed disagreements with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita.

He denied that falling health was the reason for his decision.

"I know that there have been many rumors about that, but none of them are true," he said.

Rumors about Puno undergoing a bypass operation for his heart ailment spread after he returned from a recent US vacation.

Non-partisan DILG

Puno said he was "perfectly healthy" and that he would go around flood-damaged villages in the morning to "to show my good health."

Nor did he consult with Ms. Arroyo or other Cabinet officials about his decision to withdraw.

"I have not talked to the President directly about it, but I would assume that the crux that I talked about here is obvious," he said.

"I talked about it with my family and close friends," he said, adding that not even senior DILG officials knew of his plans.

Puno stressed that he would remain with the DILG until the end of Ms. Arroyo's term and reserved to make his departure "non-partisan" in the run-up to the 2010 elections.

He declined to answer questions regarding how his withdrawal would affect the ruling party, saying he was leaving all political decisions to the party's leadership.

Puno, who dumps Mr. Arroyo's Kampi party, said he was cautious about supporting any candidate until the period for campaigning starts.

"I will resign my position first before I actively campaign for any candidate," said Puno, an experienced political and election strategist who is credited for the electoral victories of at least three presidents.

Giving way to Legarda?

He downplayed reports that he gave up his vice presidential ambitions to support Legarda. Puno is reported to have opened the possibility of Legarda's joining Lakas-Kampi-CMD when he met with the senator a month ago. He is said to have told Legarda, a member of the NPC, that he would give way if she joins the ruling party.

Pichay said he doubted that Puno's withdrawal was prompted by unfavorable (but silent) conditions, like Santos or Legarda, were being eyed to be Teodoro's running mate.

"He's a good sport. I'm sure it's not because of that," he said.

But he welcomed Puno's decision. "Now he can campaign for the presidential candidate. He's better off as a campaigner rather than as a candidate," he said.

Gabriel Claudio, Lakas-Kampi-CMD secretary general, said the talks with prospective vice-presidential candidates were not confined to Legarda and Santos, but declined to identify them.

"More were being considered. The government and campaign are three years away. That's being tackled. Before the Nov 12 [convention], that will become clear," he said.

He said incumbent officials have the edge, and that Teodoro himself will have a say on the choice of his running mate.

"The party has a preference for an incumbent official or somebody who has at least served in government, and has experience and track record," he said.

Velasco said some members had nominated Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. but the movie actor preferred to remain on attention.

Then is also Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando, a presidential aspirant who lost out to Teodoro in the voting by the party's national executive committee last month.

The party will definitely have a vice president by Nov. 30, the deadline for the filing of candidacies for 2010, Velasco said.

"We will not be credible if we don't come up with any non-'imo for president and vice president," he said.

Teodoro counting on support

Teodoro, who has been quite vocal about how comfortable he felt about running with Puno, said he expects he could still count on Puno's support.

"It's unfortunate but I respect his decision and I am still banking on his help in the elections," he said.

Teodoro earlier said he and Puno would make a good show of it in 2010 because they shared the same understanding of society issues.

"But since he withdrew from the race, we will have to look for another but I can still expect help from him," said Teodoro.

He said he was leaving it up to the party to make the choice as he was still occupied with the enormous work of reconstruction and rehabilitation from the devastation of the recent typhoons as the chief of the National Disaster Coordinating Council. With Marilyn R. Uy

Taxman wants cut

Front page A1

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) yesterday issued Revenue Regulations No. 14-09, requiring all political candidates and their supporters to set aside one-twentieth or 5 percent of their campaign kitty.

BIR Commissioner Kim S. Jacinto-Henares said the new rules will also require political parties and their candidates to register with the BIR as a withholding agent.

Civic duty

Jacinto-Henares said the new tax, which is being implemented through a project called "Buwis Mo: Kandidato, Magbabayad ng Buwis na Wasto," aims to maximize tax collection from during the election season.

"Those being taxed more remained to comply with other obligations such as the remittance of their expanded withholding tax, the issuance of certificates stating the tax has been withheld, as well as the submission of official receipts from their supplier of goods and services.

"Candidates have a civic duty of assisting in nation-building, which can be assisted by complying with their tax obligations," Jacinto-Henares said.

BIR partners with Comelec

BIR Senior Deputy Commissioner Anel Tan-Torres also said the BIR was partnering with the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to ensure that the candidates, their supporters and parties meet their tax obligations.

Tan-Torres said representatives of the BIR and the Comelec were reviewing a draft memorandum of agreement (MOA) on the matter.

"The BIR officers throughout the country will brief all candidates running for elective positions to inform them about their tax compliance responsibilities," he said.

BIR collections usually account for 70 percent of the national government's tax revenues.

Missing its target collection

This year, the government expects to spend at least P250 billion more than its budget. However, the BIR has not met its collection target.

Government earnings from January to September totaled P833.8 billion or 4.6 percent lower year-on-year for compared to the same period last year and only about three-quarters of the target for the period.

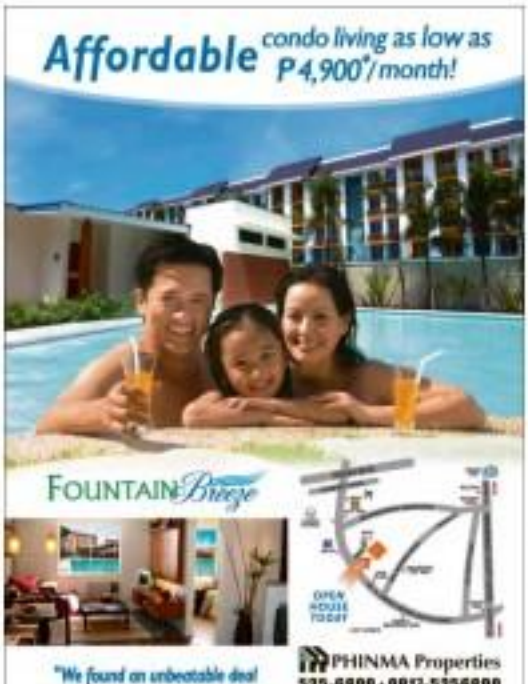
Of the total, the BIR represented P517 billion, which is 7.2 percent lower than the year-ago collections and 39.1 percent lower than its target.

Economic slowdown

In September alone, the government raised a total of P1 billion in revenues, increasing by 12.3 percent year-on-year from P89.5 billion.

Of the month's total, the BIR chipped in P56.2 billion, which is 0.8 percent higher than the year-ago P55.8 billion.

Earlier that month, Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves had said the slowdown in economic activities and tax breaks also have granted through legislation have "seriously hampered" revenue collection efforts.



ISSN 0116-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 29 No. 338

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion

EDITORIALS

Generous gesture

IF THE LEPTOSPIROSIS OUTBREAK HAS NOT caused widespread public concern and anxiety bordering on hysteria like the swine flu pandemic, it is probably because it has been confined to a few areas of the country and there is no danger of human-to-human transmission. But the disease that has afflicted about 2,000 people in the flood-stricken areas of Metro Manila and other parts of Luzon is proving deadlier by far. Less than a month after Storm "Ondoy," a total of 140 deaths from leptospirosis have already been recorded by the Department of Health. In comparison, the DOH counted 28 deaths from AH1N1 as of early September, or four months after the first case was detected in the Philippines.

The good news is that as the floods continue to subside and public awareness about the risks of wading through dirty water grows, the number of leptospirosis cases has been going down, too. Another big reason for the decline, DOH officials say, is the distribution of 2.6 million capsules of antibiotics to people living in areas that remain flooded, providing them some measure of immunity.

With the DOH busy trying to contain the outbreak and public hospitals offering free treatment, the government's health resources are stretched to their limits. Some government hospitals have had to buy extra beds to accommodate more patients. And sometimes they have to turn away new cases, because there is simply no room for more.

Now some private hospitals have generously offered a helping hand. Five private hospitals—The Medical City, Manila Doctors Hospital, Capitol Medical Center, MCU-ED, Southern Medical Foundation Hospital and Los Baños Doctors Hospital—have agreed to accept patients referred to them by the DOH and charge the government only P5,000 for simple cases and P20,000 for those suffering complications. These amounts are not enough to cover all the costs of hospitalization or treatment but the hospitals have agreed to shoulder the additional costs.

This is not a token sacrifice. The cost of treating complicated cases can go to P594,000 on the average, according to one hospital. But these hospitals—doctors, owners and administrators—are giving generously of themselves, just like the rest of the nation which seems to have come together in providing relief to the victims of the recent calamities. We are quite certain other hospitals will offer their services as generously if the need arises.

Glow of graft

FROM THE DAY HE LEARNED OF HIS APPOINTment to the Cabinet, Victor Domingo seems to have started a countdown. Facing reporters for the first time as acting public works secretary, Domingo said, "We have to work hard in these times of crisis ... the 254 remaining days of the Arroyo administration and for me in the public service will be the longest 254 days of my life." He said the DPWH would have to "fast-track, to prioritize priority projects" and make sure that roads and bridges damaged by the floods are repaired immediately to ensure the steady flow of goods between Manila and the provinces.

All that he said was expected. But if Domingo means the "longest 254 days" of his life to be more memorable, he should do the unexpected. And that would be conducting a thorough housecleaning of a department that has been rocked by scandal after scandal.

He can start by getting to the bottom of the gross overpricing of lampposts put up for the Asean Summit in Cebu a few years ago or the rigged bids for road projects funded by the World Bank. Or he can start right in his adopted province of Leyte. If he has even driven through Imelda Avenue Boulevard in Tacloban City at night, he would have been greeted by the unusual sight of a entire island installed with car's eyes. In other places, those devices are used to delineate the middle of the road to guide motorists at night. So what are they doing on a remote island?

But car's eyes, which are in use in cities where they can be useful, are just about everywhere in Leyte. They are found even on the most lonely roads rarely used by motor vehicles at night. They have become a shining example of utterly wasteful governance spending on completely senseless projects. And they cost a lot, too, with some types going for P5,000 each.

Six who approved these projects, and who profited from them? Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, who has been asking where billions from the Road Users' Tax were, would be interested to know. So should Domingo.

Publisher Isaac Fabie
Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
Managing Editor Joe Ma. D. Nolasco
Associate Editor Adelaida E. Lusares
Associate Editor for Special Projects Rosario Garcia-Lim
Opinion Editor Jose V. Abueg
News Editor Antonio T. Enriquez Jr. — Chief, Night Desk Operations Hazel B. Pulmon
Chief News Copy Desk Ruben G. Almoneda
Assistant Editor Perseverando B. Bautista Jr.
Senior Desk Editor Jaime S. Severino Jr.
Editor, Special Publications Antonio Dumaua
Chief Photographer Ernie U. Sarmiento
Art & Design Director Lisa M. B. Villamil
Board Chairman Federico R. Pastor
President Alexander Pastor Espinosa III
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing Rene G. R. Romero
Vice President for Advertising Ruth R. Olaso
Vice President for Info Tech and Pres. Assist. Gen. E. Lim
Vice President for Finance Edel M. Valencia
AVP for Circulation Manuel Andrew B. Guanzon IV
AVP for Marketing Josephine S. Rodriguez
Corporate Affairs Manager Conrad B. Salvador

All rights reserved. No part may be reproduced by any means or in any form without the prior written permission of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and its publishers.

A third way

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE 2009 NOBEL PRIZE FOR ECONOMICS has been awarded not to an economist but to a political scientist who refuses to be boxed by disciplined boundaries. Elinor Ostrom, a professor of political science at Indiana University, is being recognized for her path-breaking research on economic governance, particularly the administration of what are called "common pool resources," such as communal forests, ground water basins, fishing grounds, grazing fields, irrigation systems, etc.

Common pool resources have been known to be subject to rapid depletion, destruction and abuse—a situation that has been labeled "the tragedy of the commons." This tragedy has been supposedly averted only by the intervention of either the government or the market. Ostrom's work provides an alternative to these two options by showing how communities of users can successfully manage their resources without the need for government regulation or market privatization. Her research documents numerous cases of successful communal management in a variety of settings, showing how far more effective are existing traditional decentralized mechanisms are than the laws or the market in maintaining sustainable appropriation of these resources. She complements her field studies with careful analyses of behavior in controlled game settings.

In another time, Ostrom's conclusions would have been dismissed as the sentimental musings of a philosopher who somehow inexplicably traveled in a "small-is-beautiful" vision of the world. But the world suddenly changed last year, and from the rubble of collapsing financial markets and failed states, the Nobel Committee found this fascinating lady.

There is a third way, Ostrom says, a path that lies between "Smithian concept of market order for all private goods and Hobbes's conception of the Leviathan—now called 'the sovereign State'—for all collective goods." Between the State and the market, there is the local community which, in the light of its traditions and traditions, has evolved social arrangements suitable to the orderly utilization and preservation of the resources from which it derives its livelihood.

Being local and traditional does not mean that these arrangements are inferior to the modern organizational forms associated with the State or markets. On the contrary, they are often superior, having sprung from a tried-and-error design process sometimes spanning centuries. Ostrom, of course, is fully aware that human communities themselves undergo wrenching transformation as a result of migration, urbanization, and the spread of transportation and communication networks. At issue, as we know, communities do lose interest, or lose their collective grip over these resources.

The decline of the community has typically supplied the rationale for limitless industrialization or private ownership schemes, both of which may actually hasten the destruction of the shared resources. This one-size-fits-all way of solving the problems of common pool resources management often completely ignores not only the sheer variety of historical and social settings, but also the hidden social capital that could be harnessed in the sustainable use of these resources.

Some may think that decentralized community administration belongs in a bygone age, and that it has no place in modern complex societies. Nothing could be further from the truth. The principle that underguides modern condominium living, says Ostrom in an interview, is the same one that is found in traditional self-governing communities. "While individual families own the apartments in a 'condo,' they have joint rights and duties in relation to the building and the grounds of the condominium complex.... The Internet is another institution that is eminently relevant in modern life."

What is interesting about Ostrom's work is its clear policy thrust. She is not content with merely describing the functioning of a broad range of "self-organizing and self-governing forms of collective action." She wants to know what they teach us in terms of designing future social systems that promote sustainable living in this shared planet.

She identifies eight design principles for stable local common pool resource management (CPR) that have far-reaching implications for various areas of human organization: (1) Clear boundaries (2) Rules adapted to local conditions (3) Participation of resource users in collective decision-making (4) Effective and accountable monitoring (5) Graduated sanctions for violators of community rules (6) Cheap and accessible conflict-resolution mechanisms (7) Recognition of local self-determination by higher authorities, and (8) In the case of large common pool resources, the setting up of multiple layers of "nested enterprises" coupled with small local CPRs at the base.

If Ostrom's empirically-grounded work seems familiar, it can only be because it resonates with the themes of subsidiarity, an old and trusted principle of governance that is sorely wavering as we desperately grapple with the problems of ecological collapse, mass poverty, corruption, underdevelopment and political instability.

* * *

Comments: republic.lives@gmail.com

Striving to lose

GET REAL

Sol Vanessa Cullas-Montemar

I JUST WATCHED FOR THE FIRST TIME A tape of Claudio Lazzari's Aug. 13, 2007 "Probe" episode, featuring Civil Case 003 against Lazzari and the estate of Ferdinand Marcos. Specialist was OIs at the time about a deal between the Presidential Commission on Good Government and the Marcos heirs, divided possibly by the fact that Catalino Generillo Jr., then a special counsel of the PCGG, had subpoenaed Bongbong Marcos as a hostile witness in the case. The public speculation was Generillo, as a knee subsequently learned, it turns out that Generillo had a difficult time even getting the PCGG and the Office of the Solicitor General to approve the subpoena of Bongbong as a witness.

But let me set away from the "Probe" episode. In it, Cheche Lazzaro moderates with PCGG head Camilo Sabio, with Generillo (who had been assigned the case since January 2007) and with former Sen. Jovito Salonga, the first head of the PCGG. What floored me was what Cheche said about Sabio: "Ang misyon ng sa Lanyo (Sabio) kung may obidencias, sabi niya na hindi na kaya ng mga dating abogadong humawak ng kaso at ito na nadong abidencias ang gaharon (When I asked him if there was evidence, he said that the former lawyers handling the case of Tan told him that the government had no evidence)."

Can you imagine, dear reader, the head of the government's prosecution team in an ongoing P56 billion case (in 1987 pesos—this is the figure mentioned in the complaint), publicly admitting, for all to hear, including the defendants and the court, that the government had no evidence? And equally damning, can you imagine the one in charge of this important case virtually admitting that he knew nothing about it, but relied solely on the word of underlings? Does that sound like someone who has the confidence of the president, the Filipino people?

No evidence? What for. The PCGG had copies of the deeds of assignment and deeds of sale from Tan and his associates to companies that Marcos owned. But at the pretrial stage Mr. took almost 20 years for the case to reach trial), the defense apparently did not accept the authenticity of these documents because they were mere copies. And the PCGG felt it at that—as did, apparently, the handpicked

Until former Sen. appeared on the scene and did a great job, as did Antonio Nachura. For 1998, Imelda Marcos had given a much publicized interview to the Inquirer, in which she revealed that Ferdinand Marcos was the real owner, or a major stockholder of Tan's companies. While Generillo's predecessors may have not realized the value of that interview, Carpio-Morales, in going over the case files, did—and he used it as a basis for asking for the tape of the Inquirer interview, for copies of the reports based on that interview—and most important of all, for issuing a subpoena to Bongbong to shed light on this matter. The publication surrounding that event was what led Cheche and her Probe Team to do those interviews.

I understand that when Bongbong did testify, he brought with him copies of those deeds of assignment and sale as supplied by his unofficial lawyers, in effect validating the PCGG documents. Why the pro-Generillo PCGG did not attempt to authenticate those documents in the imaginative way that Generillo did is anybody's guess. Why did Bongbong give documents that could be construed as damaging to the Marcos estate apparently, the Supreme court ruled that the Marcos ownership of the Tan corporations is not because of some planted wealth. But whatever the case may be, the fact is that his testimony certainly made the government case against Lazzaro much stronger. And Generillo, as I previously wrote, was able to dig up documents from the archives, and from the Malacañang museum (such as the letters of Herbert Spangelen to Marcos, asking for loans and exemptions), piling up a mountain of evidence.

Generillo remedied another PCGG omission and subpoenaed Salonga as a witness. What could Salonga's contribution possibly have been? The "Probe" tape shows it: Salonga talked about how Lazzaro Tan, in the early days of the martial regime, offered a P500-million cash settlement for the case to be withdrawn (or not filed). President Corazon Aquino turned down the offer. Question: Why would Tan want to settle that large a sum if he was not guilty?

But the most glaring omission of the PCGG that Generillo caught and tried to remedy was that it totally ignored the admission of liability in her Amended Answer (to the complaint) that 65 percent of the Tan companies were owned by Marcos, with Tan as trustee. It also ignored the cross complaint filed by Imelda against Tan for the recovery of those shares. Tan, by the way, recanted way back in 2001.

Generillo was assigned to the case in January 2007. The next month, after reading the case files, he filed a motion in the Sandiganbayan for a summary judgment on the case. After all, what was there left to try, when the defendant admitted this crucial relationship? Alas, the Sandiganbayan turned it down. Undaunted, Generillo filed a motion for reconsideration—which after 20 months, has still not been decided. But I will leave the Sandiganbayan's role in this sorry affair for a later time.

Generillo was getting too successful. He was fired. Bongbong's testimony would have been the final nail on the coffin of Tan's conviction that Marcos had no claim in his corporations. His offer recently was turned down.

The whole thing stinks.

When Filipinos have changed their minds

HAVING FORMALLY ANNOUNCED THIS WEEK that he will run for president in the next election, and assuming that he intends to win, Joseph "Erap" Estrada is in effect aiming to convince a substantial proportion of voters to change their minds, between now and election day so to reboot they intend to vote for.

I can't see that the opposition (the Erap haters that he holds third place in the presidential race according to the latest SWS survey. I also suppose that he believes the survey, because last Wednesday he told his friends-audience that one out of two Filipino families still themselves nothing to point according to SWS). The former president is reportedly to be one of those who "see movies repeatedly, accepting one part but rejecting another."

Convincing voters to change their minds is what campaigns are all about. Even candidates who think they are leading their races should work hard to defend their leads, i.e., to prevent their voters from changing their minds about them. Earlier that standings in the races frequently change shows that in last quite a few voters constantly reevaluate their right to reassess their choices.

Changes during the 1992 race, in the 1992 election surveys, Didik Nicanor, unsurprisingly, led from start to finish, with 20.8 percent vote, at that time, at the end of March, after 1998 had made a million, later trip abroad, which I think rather puzzled the voters. At the beginning of May 1998 was again slightly ahead of Mitchell, he eventually won by 22.6 percent to 19.7 percent in the official count. (In winning campaign of 2004 it was, at that time, the narrowest since 1946. (In computer elections properly, margins should always be figured in percentages, and in absolute numbers of votes.)

Two things in 1992 impressed me about how public opinion should not be taken for granted. One was that Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel's being stuck in last place among the seven candidates. Evidently, the voters had been forgiven him for supporting you-ought for Cory Aquino to be supported for the various military coup attempts. After August 1987, Doy's net satisfaction ratings were always below zero, and never embarrassed again.

Two things in 1992 impressed me about how public opinion should not be taken for granted. One was that Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel's being stuck in last place among the seven candidates. Evidently, the voters had been forgiven him for supporting you-ought for Cory Aquino to be supported for the various military coup attempts. After August 1987, Doy's net satisfaction ratings were always below zero, and never embarrassed again.

Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

The second thing that impressed me was the steady rise in the standing of Eduardo "Edsa Dos" Cojuangco, who eventually finished third, behind Mitchell, but ahead of the pro-Cory Ramon Mitra and Jovito Salonga. It was an amazing comeback for such a well-known Marcos crony, whose net ratings had been negative during all his years in exile after People Power I. (There's a lesson here for National Democratic Front leader Jose Ma. Sison: you won't get most Filipinos to trust you by staying abroad.)

Changes during the 1998 race. Erap led comfortably all the way. He won by a percentage score of 39.9 vs 15.9 over Jose de Venecia Jr. equalled the 16-point margin of Ferdinand Marcos over Sergio Osmeña Jr. in 1969, but was still far below the 32-point margin of Ramon Magsaysay over Elpidio Quirino in 1953. Erap thus had his deepest the 1992 vice-presidential race, as handling's running mate—survey analysis showed that he got more from Enrile-Ig's voters than Dandoy got from Erap's voters.

But JDV succeeded in changing the minds of quite a few voters. Up to one February, by what we assume of public-doubts that her campaign had created as to FPJ's being a natural-born Filipino, SWS left behind again, slightly when the Supreme Court ruled in favor of FPJ, but by mid-April retook the lead after the news that Erap had no, who had been consistently in third place, was suffering from cancer. Many Boso voters switched to GMA, so that Boso eventually finished fourth, behind Perlito "Pinq" Lacson. Every analysis showed that a Lacson withdrawal at this point would have swung the vote back to FPJ.)

GMA's win of 40 percent to 39.6% 36.1 percent in the official count, or by only 3.5 points, is the second-smallest margin. The election was under protest when FPJ suddenly died from a stroke in December 2004. By mid-2005, however, the resignation of the "Hello Garci" tapes fundamentally changed the question of who would become. With rebellion GMA actually got more votes to whether she actually connived with Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to cheat. The unwillingness of the administration to allow the latter question to be answered is at the root of her unyielding unpopularity.

Changes during the 2010 race. SWS has asked its "three best-answers to the presidency" question, with no list of candidates to prompt respondents, in 58 national surveys since August-Sept 2007. At first, Nos. 1 and 2 were Loren Legarda and Bro Eddie Villanueva respectively. Then Mar Roxas and Legarda. For the remaining surveys, followed by either Loren or Manny Villar. Then Villar became No. 1 for two consecutive surveys, the first time with Noli as No. 2, and the second time with Erap Estrada as No. 2.

In the latest survey of September 2009, the ranking is Villar, Legarda, "Noynoy" Aquino III, Roxas, and Estrada. I'm also counting Noynoy's big lead is vulnerable to change!

History says that the minds of the electorate are not static. The cities of their changes have been many times. Will they change their minds this time, hoping in mind the SWS motto: *quot homines tot sententiae*: meaning as many opinions as there are people, let us see what we shall see.

* * *

Contact: INFO. mrmo-sws.org.ph or mahar-mangahas@yahoo.org.ph.

Let teachers lead—read—the way

HOW APPROPRIATE THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL Teachers Conference (PERC) at the Science Education Complex of Ateneo de Manila University took place within the celebration special without to teachers. An annual event that the Philippine Association (PAS) has been organizing to provide continuing professional development for the reading teachers of its partner schools and Bread's Talking And schools, this is already one the annual conferences that teachers are accustomed to.

And it is not only because the selected panelist points do not just any conference fee for registration or for the short, chamber binder of materials (teachers have to be reminded that these have to be returned after the conference for the next batch participants). They also enjoy transportation subsidies no matter what part of the country they are from; they are even provided free food (an acceptable style leaves nor plastic ware but catered buffet meals enjoyed on tables with table linens) and pampered for the three days with a half day conference. Both participants and staff are housed at the Ateneo dorms, as everyone becomes a student again, experiencing campus life. The theme is "Let Teachers Lead the Way" focusing on teachers as role models for the youth and promoting the idea that teachers are agents of desire hygiene in themselves and in the classrooms.

If that makes the 175 public school teachers sound as privileged, one needs reminding about the rigorous selection process. Three months prior to, every applicant had to complete an eight page application form that asked not only for the usual details on teaching teachers but as readers them to advise and potential reading advocates in their schools. SWS wanted to, after all, to build a nation of readers by promoting the love for and habit of reading.

Consider these probing questions, as examples of the consciousness, if you please: What reading materials do you read for pleasure? For work? How often: daily, weekly monthly, quarterly or

Commentary

Nora Ilas. Romualdez Cruz

when you have time? Who were the strongest influences in motivating you to read?

The submissions required got more challenging when they were asked to list the four most important reading skills they thought students should learn, the special activities they provided the strong readers, the special training they need to become more effective teachers.

There was also a writing component on the application form. Five essays of no more than 200 words each from a selection of nine topics—among them, to describe a most successful teaching experience, why they have chosen to become teachers, how their dedication is manifested, whether they believe there are children who can not be taught to read.

The application form was submitted together with a sealed Principal Assessment Form. The final selection was made by SEC master trainers based on a point system assigned every question.

So, in the process, the underserved, the schools, etc who made the grade literally needed to pass the eye of a needle to qualify. Their track record in the classroom and their deep interest in literacy and promoting a love for it in their students—and their principals' recommendations...were the criteria for selection.

Two of the nuns for the conference and to ensure that everyone starts from a common framework, the first small-group breakout session for ten mate groups of 12 will focus on "Me as a Teacher."

The rest of the days offer a rich and varied repertoire of sessions meant to make them do a better job of teaching and to promote skills for collaborative teamwork. Plenary speakers will open a morning and an afternoon session with their inspiring stories as teachers, mentors and teachers. There will be workshops on new tech. Master classes in strategies, Managing a Multilevel Classroom to Fun and Fun with Books to Connecting Literature to Art & Music.

The conference will end with emphasis on wellness and personality development: being an actor on the classroom stage, making most of your face and body shape to advantage, and a pampering station for actual makeovers.

Three months after the conference, the teachers are required to submit written reports on SEC, their learnings, their new skills, their plans for implementation, their impact on their schools and communities, a commitment as a Catalyst Reading Completing the requirements gives them the opportunity to be invited to SEC enrichment workshops.

Those teachers truly deserve the world-class treatment they are privileged for their needs. SEC celebrates the 5th year milestone of the Bread Catalyst Reading Conference by offering a series of refreshing and new speakers, something like a revival of the best of the best of past PERCs.

Besides the name dropping in the name of literacy, the speakers are excellent: Ambeth Ocampo, Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, Ricky Mad, John Silva, Bridget Pineda, Lo re Bersales Tangunan and Rey Aquino.

With the successful conference complete in place, it is hoped that SEC corporate partners will continue to support the conference and the celebration of Bilingual excellence. Teachers deserve only the best, nothing less, working so they do with precious young minds.

Aurei Sin, Romualdez Cruz is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People. Do Foundation for Worldwide People Power, and a trustee of the Jo. Kalaw Institute Foundation. Email comments to norarcr@gmail.com.

Integrating CSR into your business

IT IS NOW GENERALLY ACCEPTED THAT BUSINESS need to help address social problems that all societies to which they operate. One of the main challenges confronting corporations with regard to corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities that are intended to address such social problems is the lack of evidence that these are sustainable in the long run. For this reason, the preferred forms of CSR programs are those integrated into the core of how they do business.

There are various ways by which such integration can take place. One way is to develop good products or services that not only benefit society but also generate profits for the corporation and its shareholders. One such product is the development of hybrid cars. These cars not only reduce emissions that damage the environment, they also provide a competitive advantage to those companies producing them.

Access to means of communication is a vital need in any society, for the rich as well as for the poor. In the Philippines, access to such means of communication (telephones) was limited for a long time to the more affluent segment of our society. But recently, not only have developed a cheaper model that provided access to telephone service to the poorest of the poor, which C.K. Prahalad calls the bottom of the pyramid. As a result, these two companies are among the most profitable companies in the country today.

Garbage dumps have long been a nuisance to communities. But they are also a source of methane that is used to generate electricity. One such project is located in San Mateo, Rizal.

The three-pronged reasoning the sustainability of CSR programs has driven some food manufacturing companies like Nestlé, Starbucks, Mc-Donald's and Tchibo Coffee to include farmers into their supply chain. These companies seem to assume that they get a steady supply of quality raw materials, farmers, on the other hand, lack the resources to learn new technologies to improve their yields and the quality of their farm products. Nestlé, Starbucks and others have developed their products. By helping farmers to learn new technologies and to provide financing for their crops, food companies are helping ensure the availability and quality of their raw materials. The companies have also realized that by integrating the farmers into their supply chain, they would no longer need expensive budget for CSR.

Poor people often don't have access to health products. In response, companies like Unilever and P & G have developed new packaging for their products, in sachets, to put them well within the reach of even the poor. At the same time, the new packaging serves to expand the market for such products. Climate change and concern for the environment have also motivated manufacturers to develop new processes. Unilever employs like Intel and Coca-Cola continue to seek ways of minimizing the adverse water they use in their manufacturing, as well as of recycling the empty.

What can we learn from the foregoing examples about integrating CSR into the core and strategy of business? The key to sustainability of CSR programs is the link between the social issue and the nature of the business of the corporations concerned. The corporation must realize some benefit from the programs, otherwise, when hard times come, the budgets for CSR disappear. After all, corporations are formed in order to generate profits for shareholders. But as shown in the examples, it is possible, and in fact recommended, that they go beyond their accountability to shareholders and likewise address social issues and problems that have a direct bearing on their business.

The process begins with identifying the social problems in the environment where the corporation operates. Such problems may revolve around pressing climate change, environment, or access to resources as shown in our examples. Then the corporation can ask itself what resources or capabilities it has that can be brought to bear on the identified social problem. If there is a match between the two, then you have the beginning of a truly sustainable CSR program.

The concept is really simple, but it may require creativity and innovation to implement. To start with, it may require other skills and resources that certain corporations do not possess. Hence partnerships with other corporations, NGOs and the government may be needed. It has not always been easy for these three segments of our society to work together. They have been accustomed to work in silos with little or no interaction with one another. The partnership among these three elements will require a full attitude by itself.

As mentioned in an earlier column, it is myopic, pernicious that as business applies to social problems that are economic, monetary and materialistic in nature. It has dominated the concept of its business existence, so will be at our way to solving a better life for all Filipinos. But it will be a continuing challenge, a work in progress.

Felipe B. Alfonso is vice chair of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Board of Trustees and the executive director of the AIM-Ramon V. del Rosario Jr. Center for Corporate Social Responsibility.

Business Matters

Felipe B. Alfonso

To my little brother

LIZ PILLEY

I can't believe you are leaving your first retreat already! I can still remember when you were the one writing me paleface letters. But now that you are 12, I am the one writing to you.

I haven't been much of a presence in your life lately due to pressure of my studies, so I want to take this opportunity to tell you a number of things. First, of course, is that I miss you very much. I miss hanging out with you, and watching movies together and talking about the old days and most anything about [illegible] with you.

Of course, you already know that we have a new addition to our family, I am sure. Unless you've been living under a rock, I'm sure you've heard of her existence. Her name is Kalisa.

Next, I want to tell you that I'm very thankful to have a brother like you. Did Mom ever tell you how much of a spoiled brat I was? I was such a bad daughter before. I would have tantrums until I got what I wanted. (Don't copy me!) And I kept doing it until you came into our lives. At the age of 4, I suddenly developed having the good heart, and became the older sister instead. I was never jealous of you. I was happy that finally I had a brother to take care of.

When I was growing up, my best friend would tell me how much she hated her sister. She told me how mean her sister was to her, how she felt as bad because they would always fight. When I heard her tell me such things, I promised myself that I would never be like that. I didn't want you to tell your friends "I hate my Ate, she's so annoying." So I vowed that I would be the nicest, most loving and caring sister I could be. And I hope I'm doing a good job.

Sometimes, I do get annoyed with you. It's just natural for siblings to argue. It's healthy, even. But I think that sometimes you catch me in a bad mood, or you do something that I really don't like.

For those times, I would like to say sorry. Sorry if ever I did anything that upset you or really pissed you off. Like when we got to the mall and I took nearly every single shop. I'm really just like that when shopping. I don't do that to make you angry; it just happens.

Next, I want you to know that you are loved. Mama, Papa, and I love you very much. You are our baby. You are the youngest in our family, and we find joy in the smallest things that you say or accomplish. We want for you a lot, and we want all the best for you.

Now you are 12. You are a teenager already, and it's human nature to be a little bit rebellious at that age because you are on your way to becoming an adult. But always remember that wherever you are up, we got back. Especially when you say certain things to Mama and Papa. She try to understand as much as we can because we have been there. I know the feeling of wanting to be free, but still loved.

Since you know that I love you, I also want you to know that you can talk to me about anything and everything. I am your big sister, and you can rely on me and trust me. After Mama and Papa, I'm the one who takes care of you and watches you the most. Of course, it is a different responsibility from being a parent, but I still want you to know that you have another sibling you can talk to. Remember that there's only you and me. We don't have any other sibling, so we should rely on each other. Even when we get older and we have our own families, I want us to remain close.

Now comes the part about school. I know that school is getting tougher for you. The lessons are more difficult and more interesting, but you will learn a lot from them. Perhaps not now, maybe in the future, but for sure these lessons will prove useful. I want you to study hard. Please, Bianca and Sy, you would tell me the same thing before. I always thought it was unusual to study less. But I have come to realize that it is really important to do well in your studies. Getting a good education allows you to go places you want to go, and have a wonderful life when you are older.

I hope you enjoy your retreat. Take the time to reflect and think about the person you need, the person you are now and the person you would like to become.

I pray that you will develop a good relationship with God. Praying to Him and and relying on Him really helps. There are a lot of things I prayed for which came true. As for those things that didn't go my way, I understood through His guidance.

You are only 12, and there are still so many things in life that you will learn. I cannot wait to share my other experiences with you. I hope you can share some or most of your experiences with me as well. Like it when you tell me things, even the most trivial things.

Be safe, and remember how much we love you. A lot of people out there love you also, like your friends and other relatives. Be kind to everyone.

Ate is always here for you. Take care and remember to always love others. Be respectful to your elders, and be the best in everything you do.

Thine of Lorenzana, 22, is a first year medical student at UNAM in Bacnotan, Ilocos.

Young Blood

Trina F. Lorenzana

We want to know what the young people are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the country's young people. Please send your write-ups to [illegible]. Limit to 600 words.

Notice to Youngblood contributors:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, unless send your parcels enrolled or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Unpublished or to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

They Said

Unbelievable

"Based on our comparison, it was unbelievable that with 5,000 cable stations released per second (by the San Roque Dam), it was like having a billion bathtubs being dumped on Singapore in a day."

—Ephesus Solar Chairman Ejercito

Destructive projects

"In addition to lack of disaster preparedness, the Arroyo government's pet projects—dubious and destructive projects such as large-scale mining and large dams that destroy our environment and make communities more vulnerable and at higher risk to floods, landslides and other disasters."

—Ephesus Solar Chairman & of the environment group Bantay Kalikasan

LETTERS

Erap's solution to Mindanao war off-key

THE IMAGERY IN THE ELOQUENT AND muted President Joseph Estrada boasted of eradicating the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and communist insurgency in a manner the Armed Forces of the Philippines routed the Moro secessionist forces in Camp Abubakar during his presidency to short, through an all-out war.

Nobody might have won that pocket war, but whether he won the hearts of millions of Filipino Muslims is not clear to him. Which is not a surprise given his insensitive approach to the struggles of the Bangsamoro people. If at all he achieved something in the devastation of Camp Abubakar, it was to further heat up the climate of insurgency which we now have to bear. If Estrada had his way, it's not farfetched that he would resort to genocide to quell the problem of ethnic Moro strife. He sees no need of his opinion in dealing with the conflict in Mindanao. His solution is simplistic and he takes pride in it as if it were the panacea for Mindanao's problems; he even bought sporadic of advertising space in the major national dailies to hear that it was to be the centerpiece of his governance if by the grace of the 8—Che runs the presidency.

The truce forged by the Arroyo administration with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) may have some loopholes, but it contained the bloody rebellion and allowed the rehabilitation of war-ravaged communities of Datumanao, Jolo and Maguindanao. Synergy of added to a certain governments' resources and opened windows of opportunities for small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs among the MNLF combatants and their families.

We are pursuing out the insanity of Estrada's plot and the gains of a peace pact to underscore the supremacy of peace over war in our search and endeavor to forge a lasting peace accord with the MILF. We believe wielding a war by armed confrontation is insensitive. The MILF and the government have spent time and deliberated on many contentions issues. Both have seen which of the issues are untenable and which are tenable. So many lives have been lost and so many opportunities have been wasted. Thousands of families have been displaced, unable to resume normal activities.

MILF Chair Al Haaj Murad Ebrahim says he now wants to end the cycle of violence before it affects the younger generation of Muslims. The same can be said of the new generation of Iranuds and Christians. Murad has assured the world community that they are not hostile and they will only struggle now because they have come to realize and believe that the problem cannot be solved by military means alone. "It will always boil down to peaceful solutions."

The MILF has likewise agreed to widen the role of America in maintaining not a peace deal that will bring a stable and lasting peace in Mindanao. We have to do this quick before Estrada makes a comeback by a diabolic quick of political fiance.

—ABDULH B. MAMBUNDU,
Bgao City
mitsmindanao79@yahoo.com

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Bgao and Maceda Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Ana, 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and cellphone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Solution to MM flooding broached 12 years back

THE HOUSING FOLK THESE DAYS IS FOCUSing its blame for the flood of the century on Metro Manila, which tropical storm "Ondoy" caused last Sept. 26. Was the flood man-made or God-ordained? Could it have been prevented or the damage it caused minimized?

Widely being entered accessories, righteous are God-ordained. On the other hand, they could also be man-made when man does not prepare for such weather disturbances to prevent or minimize the destruction they may cause.

Twelve years ago, I wrote an article titled "I, Manilite for Mindanao" (Inquirer, 8/27/97), stating in part the following:

"Mindanao significantly the occurrence of flood waiters, first, the removal of all squatters along Pasig River, causing metro-wide and of dredging floats. Then because many settlers have disappeared, huge canals and areas will have to be built traversing the entire Metro Manila and passing through the reclaimed land to Manila Bay. Many informal settlers will be displaced during the interim should be replaced by open fields as for easy maintenance. A megalithic selfpumping stations may have to be built along the bay and Pasig River to protect the Manila from high tides, the worst case for floods."

Now, what I have suggested is a huge and costly undertaking that will take years to complete. But we have to start this now if we want the flood problem solved, even if only partially, to manageable proportions as required by logic.

What must be done immediately is to dredge the whole Manilena River and Pasig River from Laguna Lake to Manila Bay and use the dredged materials to reclaim their banks along the latter areas. It is not enough to clean them of garbage and squatters for they have silted so much that their discharge capacity has been greatly reduced. With these areas to afford up, the natural tendency of water flowing through them is enhanced beyond their capacity. Manila daily is to overflow and flood the low-lying areas beside them. That is the simple logic of the cause of floods that is unreasonably ignored.

—RODOLFO R. MENDOZA (RET.)
mendozarudy@gmail.com

BAGUIO... A COOL DESTINATION WHERE THE ADVENTURE BEGINS!

Baguio true to being a cool destination has proven once again that indeed that it's where the adventure begins. The City of Pines has extended efforts of all sectors to ensure and non-government organization has made a record breaking recovery in the wake of the recent typhoon. As it continues to expand, the City is now looking itself for the usual Holy Week and Christmas crowds.

- All roads to Baguio now open!
- FR - Ave Amadeus Rosario
  (November 22 to December 12, 2009)
- Philippine Mine Safety Week Annual Convention
- Cordillera Trade Expo Baguio Rice to Rooms
- City - wide Sale!
- Exciting promos and packagesare here! | Inn | food & beverage

HOTEL & RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION OF BAGUIO DISCOUNTS AND PACKAGES

BAGUIO UPDATE (AS OF OCTOBER 16, 2009)

BAGUIO CITY EVENTS FROM OCTOBER 2009 TO JUNE 2010

Cruz's appalling column on mining

WE IN THE MINING INDUSTRY were appalled to read Neal Cruz's desperate tirades (Inquirer, 9/21/09) to discredit an industry that a few months back reaped a succession of full endorsees with lots of optimism buoyed by a continuing growth in investments and production. As a veteran journalist, Cruz is expected to deal with issues intelligently and not to resort to dirty spitting/name of the MGB Myrna Tigil Mina. It seems Cruz doesn't know that the government requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) before all industries comply with its self-imposing environmental concerns.

Equating landslides and flooding with mining is totally erroneous opinion as proven by scientific Mineralized zones have long been there because the presence of minerals adds to the stability of the soil. This is why there is progressive rehabilitation and reforestation of mining areas after the minerals are extracted. Mineralized zones that have gone true are those where the mineral resources are deep-seated and normally extracted through underground method. Mining works within the framework of responsible development. Because it has managed through the years to establish changes and has satisfied evolving environmental, economic and social concerns while continuing to improve itself.

To believe that it is best policy to leave our mineral wealth is to be blind to the opportunity and the overriding concern to relieve poverty in the country by transforming its indigenous mineral resources into wealth.

The government has seen the great potential of mining as a catalyst of immense economic activity, as shown by the thriving economies of many other countries that have taken advantage of their mineral wealth. It is time that our country to be extracted for their country's benefit. The Philippines has limited financial means to exclusively fund mining projects. It is imperative for the government to actively solicit investments from countries that have the financial capabilities to fund exploration and mining projects.

In all, nobody will argue that minerals and metals have played a pivotal role in world civilization and in the many contexts of living people experience today. Perhaps, instead of dealing with tons of wastes, lives of miners and the economy, Cruz should have chosen to dirty (which at present can be managed efficiently), we should instead look at its products like cars, airplanes, computers, cell phones, television sets and many more equipment that Cruz obviously is increasingly using. We doubt if Cruz and Myrna Tigil Bilao do not find roles and comfort in the use of the numerous products of the industry they unduly despise. In a humdrum world, winning is meaning, anywhere it is undertaken and there will always be trade offs. The cry of the matter is how mining is undertaken and the choice is just ours mining the resources responsibly or irresponsibly.

The kind Cruz could have done was to point to the irresponsible companies.

—NELIA BACON,
executive vice president,
Chamber of Mines
of the Philippines

Common sense, who's got less of it?

AND SO, ANOTHER SENATE probe in aid of legislation is once again before us—after the legion we have seen, with many a bill, much less a law, resulting from the previous ones, so far. This time the Senate is asking why the "Ondoy and Pepeng disaster" (Inquirer, 9/30/09).

To be sure, the participating senators and local officials had reason to call the dam managers liars (Inquirer, 10/1/09) given the latter's tardy (and confusing and inconsistent) to announce the dam releases. Their excuse, nevertheless, to put the blame for "Pepeng's" floods entirely on the dam's administrators and Napocor officials is not unlike blaming the republic's deficit for the Marcos loot, is flawed. The mayors deserve a more severe censure because of their miserable failure—in fact, inexcusable inhumanness demand by their own stated interests—to get rid of the squatters once and for all. This is not in defense of the dam's administrators and Napocor officials; this is merely wanting the powers-to-be to see their mayhem.

The problem of floods has been with us since time immemorial. It struck me that during the burning fires, Loren Legarda kept stressing the dam officials' lack of dam emission sense in exercising the right protocols to moderate the impact of the storm flood. As an aside, there is reason to believe that some of our lawmakers must have themselves failed to use their common sense—for many years at that—in not realizing the other-wise simplest faults in this country's perennial flood woes: infrastructure developed to make commercial sense that affect their constituents relatively less flood-prone. The lawmakers who feel alluded to or want to prove me wrong in this belief need only to show how they have used their pork barrel funds for the construction of dikes or flat basketball court, naming shed or other insignificant, but "commonsensible" projects.

Meanwhile, the 15 senators are expected to be supporting Senate Bill 3488, which seeks to create a commission to investigate the causes and costs of calamities such as those triggered by "Ondoy" and "Pepeng." It is the big gest that they just instead a law directly requiring all [illegible]... preferably over the next 10 years or so—to devote their park lands to real estate-wide development projects that would concretely mitigate the impact of natural calamities. Shouldn't that be decidedly more commonsensical than the probes and investigations galore in our midst and times?

—RUBY L. CORDOVA,
rudycordova2004@yahoo.com

Across the NATION

Stop Boracay destruction 'whoever gets hurt,' DENR chief told

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE DEPARTment of Tourism has joined calls of Boracay business groups for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to stop unabated illegal construction and other destructive activities on the island resort and enforce laws "regardless of who gets hurt."

In a letter to Environment Secretary Jesselito Atienza dated Oct. 21, tourism regional director Edwin Trompeta expressed concern over the construction of resorts and other structures using coral reefs and in coral-build zones on the island.

"Several newspaper items and e-mails have shown that the ongoing illegal and destructive construction activities are fast devolving tourism in Boracay," Trompeta said.

Business groups on the island earlier called on Atienza to stop the illegal construction and environmental law violations in Boracay, particularly the construction of Boracay View Grove Resort on coral reefs.

The resort, owned by a businessman closely associated with Atienza and boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, is in a no-build zone and has been operating without business and other permits since 2007.

Trompeta disclosed that in a recent visit to the island with a group of divemers of Capitol Town Boat Marina, they were "shocked" to see concrete beach walls put up by resort owners along the beach at the northwest end of the island, the location of the best beach spots and most expensive resorts.

"The construction of one or a series of impervious structures on a beach or near shore area causes a chain of events," Trompeta said.

Trompeta warned that illegal structures would ultimately destroy the island's tourism industry that generates P12 billion annually.

"The lack of setback and lack of enforcement against these illegal structures... is going to kill tourism that provides jobs, livelihood and investment for our economy," he said.

He urged Atienza to address the growing pressures of business groups and other stakeholders by enforcing national laws "regardless of who gets hurt."

Trompeta said it is the main responsibility of the DENR to enforce laws dealing with coastal management. These include the Environmental Impact Statement system, foreshore laws, laws on shorelines, marine protected areas, ecozonation and small island development.

"The laws governing coastal tourism development... just need to be followed," Trompeta said.

2 Benguet areas tagged uninhabitable

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Fearing the loss of more lives, the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in the Cordillera has declared two areas no longer habitable and asked people to immediately leave them.

In a report submitted to Gov. Nestor Pacpaco on Friday, the MGB said Little Kiltengan in Barangay Pugong and the section of Sitio Bayagan in Barangay Ortiz, that were hit by landslides on Oct. 8, are no longer fit for habitation.

"The areas must be vacated because of their unstable condition," the report said.

The MGB also recommended the immediate relocation of the Lamtang Elementary School, also in Pugong, because it sits atop a dangerous slope.

The 4th that these areas would collapse is high during heavy rainfall, it said.

Deaths

At least 75 people died when a massive landslide, triggered by heavy rains dumped by Typhoon "Pepeng," buried the mountainside community of Little Kiltengan on Oct. 8. Another 20 residents died in the Bayagan landslide on the same day.

The slope under the Lamtang Elementary School was recently excavated, exposing a deep hollow portion just below the school's playground.

The MGB report contained the findings of Engr. Ayli, MGB chief geologist in the Cordillera, and Edward Agsunodio, MGB senior science research specialist.

Ayli and Agsunodio said Little Kiltengan is a "critical area highly susceptible to landslide."

Rains dumped by Pepeng reactivated a slide at the foothill area of a creek that cut through the steep slope whose many of the destroyed houses used to stand, the report said.

"The slide started as a sliding which transformed into a debris flow," it said.

Landslide after landslide

The flow was saturated with water, leading to the landslide that ran about 400 meters, it said.

"A minimum of 15,000 cubic meters of debris were dislodged from the slope...," the report said.

The MGB report said the same situation happened in Sitio Bayagan.

The slide on the area developed a slump and a debris flow that resulted in another landslide, it said.

The report urged residents there to relocate. It said the slope in the area must be closely monitored for any mass movement with joint measures to stabilize it are not yet in place.

The MGB said classes at the Lamtang Elementary School, which started on Monday were in held in other places.

The soil movement in the paved school ground was one period of backfill materials and held in place by riprap, it said.

"Apparently, the paved canal near the school was unable to contain the water which found its way to the slope," it said.

A ROOM without walls is an unfinished building in Brgy. Lagnas becomes classroom for high school students in the town as their school building turned into an evacuation center for flood victims. CARLO CENTINO/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Teachers in Laguna town take extra step

BAY, LAGUNA—TEACHERS being their own flooding problems and delayed pay are usually not the students of a high school here who receive come to school because their homes are still submerged in floodwaters.

It's extra effort for schools the teachers expect no extra pay.

Teachers of the Gabriel Mercado Memorial High School decided to conduct home visits—at least three times a month—as many students were forced to move to evacuation centers in Calamba City in Laguna and Pasig City in Metro Manila.

Rhea Gabriel, an English teacher and 40-year adviser, said class advisers would conduct home visits on weekdays or Saturdays, requiring no extra pay or even transportation allowance.

"It's okay because it is our responsibility, especially as advisers," she said. "If we think is missing, we look for it."

Gabriel said the teachers stayed riding students who were staying in nearby evacuation centers on Friday last week.

"Home visits were intensified ever since [each if students] had problems, but this time we really have to do it three a month," she said.

"We divide [not the status of the students, rented parents that we are crying out loud to conduct regular classes, and give the students the impression that they need to do. We explain them to go back to school and when they return, we give them make-up periods and classes."

Gabriel said the teachers regularly hold remedial and make-up classes for students after 4 p.m. classes.

Teacher's appeal

But the teachers themselves were suffering from the destruction of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."

Gabriel said the homes of at least nine co-teachers are still underwater.

Divina Ebcio, a fist year teacher, is still staying at a school evacuation center with her husband, mother and siblings. Their house in Barangay Tagumpay is three deep in water.

As a new teacher, Ebcio has not yet received any pay from September to October and services by borrowing money from her siblings.

She said she started to teach this June and is still not listed in the payroll of teachers.

"I do not feel any special assistance given to. I hope we pay will be released soon and want to request it but I don't know who to turn to," Ebcio said.

Temporary school

Students of the Sidney Memorial Diamond High School are holding classes on the second floor of an unfinished building because evacuees are still occupying the school building.

Gabriel said hopefully, some classes can already be held in the school building next week since four classrooms have already been restored. —Gerlie Cal/Sig Pulmenthal S. Inquirer Southern Luzon

Fish dealer saves teen girl in fire

CAMANAVAN CITY—ALLAN Sagayno was drinking beer in San Leonardo town from his stash at the Navotas fish port shortly after midnight Tuesday when he chanced upon a girl trapped in the terrace of a burning two-story house in Calmay town.

Without hesitation, Sagayno, a fish dealer, scraped his delivery truck, climbed the narrow, smashed the balcony and iron grill and snatched out Mary Aimes Bellingit, 18, to safety.

Bellingit suffered only slight burns.

But her parents, Marcelino Jr. and Amelia, both 48, and her brother, Marcelino II, 14 died in the fire that razed their house at the Sitio Sandiat subdivision in Barangay San Fernando Sur in Calmay.

Bellingit told police that she was awakened from sleep by her parents when the fire broke out.

She ran to the terrace as the fire grew bigger.

But her parents were back inside the house to rescue her younger brother and were unable to find their way out.

When Sagayno noticed the fire and saw the trapped teenager in the terrace, he jumped out of his truck. Despite the narrow beam, he used a shaky hammer to destroy the iron grill to save the girl.

Teddy Esquivel, the town's fire officer, said the bodies of Bellingit's parents and brother were found in the middle of the fire. —Anselmo Roque Jr. Inquirer Central Luzon

More pork seen as 2 provinces get new districts

THE COMMISSION ON ELECtions may have to print longer ballots following the creation of new congressional districts in Cebu and Lanao del Norte.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed two measures in a string of last-minute bills that would earn more seats to the House of Representatives next year.

On Thursday, Ms Arroyo signed Republic Act No. 9736 that created the loan congressional district of Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu province.

On Oct. 28, the President signed RA 9724 which creates a separate congressional district in Iligan City.

Rep. Simeon Gren Ruiz, who authored RA 9726, said residents of Lapu-Lapu City could elect their first congressman next year.

The new district is entitled to P78 million in pork barrel funds, money which had been associated with member-congress.

Rep. Vicente Belmonte Jr., of Iligan City, said he would continue to represent Iligan in the House of Representatives if his wife in next year's elections. —Jhannis Jacquelaine, Inquirer Visayas and Rachel Uriel, Inquirer Mindanao

Pangasinan town slowly rising back on its feet

By Yolanda Intaso
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BOLAOEN, PANGASINAN—IT was a scene right out of the Old Testament: People bear with their daily grind, planting and harvesting in farms and selling and buying in the boomtown area.

Bowles in Pangasinan was a booming town, its economy propelled by rice farmers led by Mr City and vast agricultural lands.

But the Oct. 8 floods came and drowned the town's dreams. The verdant agricultural lands were submerged in murky waters and loaded in mud. Business establishments were left in ruins.

But there was something amazing in the scene. Nobody played Noah to warn the people about the coming deluge. Not the government, not the flood forecasting office, not the weather bureau, not the San Roque Dam operators.

"We lost more than 90 percent of our agricultural products. Even the already harvested palay were submerged. Agricultural loans were placed at 19.28 million while the business sector lost about P300 million. Some 148 families were rendered homeless," Mayor Rhoda Bonita said.

Almost back to when the town started when he became mayor in 2004 (from exhibition town, it subdued five-time storm during his term), Bonita said the first thing on the agenda is to assess investors that they have nothing to fear in the town.

"We are trying to rebuild confidence," he said, referring to the sudden water release when the dam's water level neared its critical level.

"I will assure the river myself whenever there is a typhoon and I will call on the dam operators when to release water," Bonita said. "I'll neither be the release."

The mayor said he foresees Bowles' recovery to come in six months to a year.

One by one, business establishments are reopening a week after the deluge. Old City Bowles, now undergoing restoration, is set to reopen before December.

"We declared a moratorium on business taxes to help them recover and rebuild their businesses," Bonita said.

Tons of garbage in the business district have also been cleared. Bonita is talking to Department of Agriculture officials for the rehabilitation of agricultural areas.

> Nobody played Noah to warn the people about the coming deluge. Not the government, not the flood forecasting office, not the weather bureau...

Business officials, Bonita said, are meeting with officials of the San Roque Dam to draw a new protocol on water releases.

"It was definitely a human error," he said, referring to the

INQUIRER Visayas

John Jon Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

'Inclusion' is battle-cry for RP disabled

A GROUP of hearing-impaired musicians of Abogon Bukluran, make music through sign language communicated by their conductor. They performed during the Philippine Community-Based Rehabilitation Congress on Aug. 23-27 at the Manila Pavilion.

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

"NDI DAPAT ING DAKUNGAN song mga ginikanan ang da ka-batasan kag ang mga kabatasan nah magtuyo kaya parehas sa silom. (Parents should not be ashamed of their kids and the children themselves, like myself, should not be shy.)"

The statement sounds preachy, but after knowing that it comes from 26-year-old Salvacion "Sally" Saditsan who was born blind, one reads it as an empowering assertion.

Sally, who is majoring in Special Education at the West Visayas State University (WVSU) in Iloilo City was asked for her insights on the relationship of persons with disabilities with their loved ones and communities during the Iloilo Pre-Congress of Community-Based Rehabilitation on Aug. 20 at the Iloilo provincial capitol.

A native of Antique province, Sally, like most of the participants at the Iloilo Pre-Congress have acknowledged the disadvantages of negative attitudes and the importance of their communities in helping them reach their potentials as persons with disabilities.

It is exactly this kind of acceptance that empowered persons with disabilities and workers for the disabled are hoping to replicate all over the archipelago.

Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) is the current focus in the effort to integrate persons with disabilities in the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDG) – that seeks to improve the lives of the marginalized, among others.

'Mendicant attitude'

Survey Megledo, national coordinator for CBR of the Christian Blind Mission in the Philippines stresses that "CBR is a rights-based inclusive development approach to community development."

It is also a strategy "within general community development for the prevention of impairments, rehabilitation, equalization of opportunities, poverty reduction, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities into mainstream society."

The CBR is hailed as a great step to overthrow away from the "mendicant attitude" toward empowerment where people in the Philippines understand that for true integration to happen, development must revolve around a respect for the rights and dignity of the human being regardless of their physical or mental state.

At the Philippine CBR Congress on Aug. 23-27 at the Manila Pavilion, hundreds of participants from all over the country celebrated the gains of CBR since June 21, 2003, when President Macapagal-Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 417 titled "Encouraging the Implementation of Community-Based Rehabilitation for Persons with Disabilities in the Philippines."

EO 417 "encourages" all local government units (LGUs) to "adopt the CBR program in delivering services to their constituents with disabilities and to allocate funds to support the program," as well as the coordination in working with the National Council for the Welfare of Disabled Persons.

Ignored issue

The CBR came to be after some suggesting statistics regarding disability in the Philippines where one out of every four in any community is affected by disability for three years or more, according to the World Health Organization.

The rationale for the suggested guidelines on EO 417 also says that in the Philippines, up to half the number of persons with disabilities or 3.6 million Filipinos need rehabilitation services on a regular basis and yet, "despite initiatives, over two million Filipinos with disabilities are denied their right to services in health, self-being, decent livelihood and participation in community life."

The Department of Education, in a 2003 report, says that only 1.87 percent of children with disabilities are allowed to go to school. Persons with disabilities, according to EO 417, include the visually impaired, the hearing-impaired, the physically impaired, the intellectually impaired, and those persons with mental illnesses.

In setting the stage for the congregation of CBR networks at the local level and finding local support to effect change, the more than 250 participants at the Philippine CBR Congress have reflected on the challenges ahead and acknowledged that much remains to be done in the domains of health, livelihood, education, society empowerment and governance.

In his speech at the closing ceremonies of the Philippine CBR Congress, Mike Davies, global advisor of the WHO on CBR said that "for the first time, we have standards on what CBR is" and that the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) must promote CBR in all levels of government.

Manual for CBR

Stories was heartened by the launching of the "Philippine CBR Manual: An Inclusive Development Strategy" that provides guidelines on cost-effective and simple ways to start, or as complement existing programs or build on existing systems so that people with disabilities are included and are contributing to the community.

The manual, a joint venture of the DSWD-CBR Coordinating Office and the NCDA took several years in the making and includes stories of persons with disabilities and institutions and businesses working with the disabled.

A recurring theme at the Philippine CBR Congress is about lost opportunities or lack of it in communities. Participants shared many stories about loss or victims of negative attitudes, they or their loved ones with disabilities were excluded from mainstream community activities.

It was thus a breath of fresh air when, during the plenary sessions, the panelists openly clarified their concerns and presented recommendations.

All throughout, the highlight of the Philippine CBR Summit and the Philippine CBR Congress is the powerful word, "inclusion," and for West Garcia, Sally's teacher at the WVSU, the congress looks well for her student and the rest of persons with disabilities in the Philippines.

So FARE, So Good!
SEAT SALE
Sale Period: Oct. 24-27, 2009 • Travel Period: Dec. 1, 2009 to Feb. 28, 2010
DOMESTIC GO LITE FARE
₱888 Manila to Zamboanga / Cebu to Clark or Zamboanga / Davao to Zamboanga
INTERNATIONAL GO LITE FARE
₱999 Cebu to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore
₱2,499 Manila to Incheon / Cebu to Busan or Incheon
INTERNATIONAL
₱2,599 Manila to Osaka
DOMESTIC GO LITE FARE
₱588 Manila to Kalibo / Cebu to Iloilo
₱688 Manila to Kalibo (Boracay), Legazpi or Tagbilaran / Cebu to Dumaguete or Davao
₱788 Manila to Busuanga or San Jose (Mindoro) / Cebu to Bacolod, Cagayan de Oro or Surigao / Davao to Cagayan de Oro
₱888 Manila to Caticlan (Kalibo) or Tagbilaran / Cebu to Butuan or Tacloban
₱988 Manila to Bacolod, Coron, Dipolog, Dumaguete, Iloilo or Laoag / Cebu to Davao
₱1,088 Manila to Cebu or Roxas / Cebu to Caticlan (Kalibo) or Kalibo (Boracay)
₱1,188 Manila to Dumaguete, Puerto Princesa, Tacloban or Tagbilaran / Cebu to Dipolog, General Santos or Zamboanga
₱1,288 Cebu to Legazpi, Puerto Princesa or Siargao / Davao to Cebu
₱1,988 Manila to Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Catarman, Roxas, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamis, Siargao* or Surigao* / Cebu to Manila, Cagayan de Oro, Catarman, Roxas, Dipolog, General Santos, Ozamis, Siargao* or Surigao*
INTERNATIONAL GO LITE FARE
₱1,399 Manila to Kota Kinabalu or Taipei
₱2,199 Manila to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Macau or Singapore
₱2,899 Manila to Guangzhou or Ho Chi Minh
₱3,399 Manila to Jakarta or Kuala Lumpur / Cebu to Hong Kong
₱4,399 Manila to Shanghai / Cebu to Singapore
Quoted fares are one-way. Limited availability. Fares are exclusive of government fees and taxes. Go Lite Fares are available upon booking for guests traveling without check-in baggage. Add ₱100 to fare upon booking if traveling with check-in baggage. Cebu Pacific accepts ATM, Internet and over-the-counter payments through Robinsons Link, Metrobank, BDO, Banco de Oro, Bancnet, Mega Link, Express Net, Philippine Savings Bank, Chinabank, Equitable PCI Bank, Asia United Bank, Landbank, Metrobank Card Corporation, Banco de Oro Card, Bancnet, Maybank, Philippine Savings Bank Card, Chinabank Card, Equitable PCI Bank Card, Asia United Bank Card, Landbank Card, Metrobank Card

GMA leaves today for Asean summit in Bangkok

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo was scheduled to leave at 10 a.m. today (Saturday) for Thailand to attend the 15th summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Ms Arroyo skipped the summit's opening ceremony yesterday and went late departure from Friday night to this morning so she could attend to pressing matters at home, officials said.

On arrival in Thailand, Ms Arroyo will join the heads of state of the 10-nation Asean in a working lunch with the leaders of China, Japan and South Korea, and later in the noon Plus Three Summit at the Thanyaburi of Hua Hin. Press Secretary Cerge Remonde said.

Later in the day, she will also hold a bilateral meeting with Japan, take part in the Asean-India summit and attend a gala dinner hosted by Thailand.

Tomorrow, she will have a bilateral meeting with New Zealand, host Mass with the Filipino community and join other leaders in the East Asia summit, according to Remonde.

"Her schedule is packed. She will be back in Manila on Sunday night, God willing," Remonde said.

A friend's birthday

Yesterday, for the 6th time, Ms Arroyo visited her home province of Pampanga to respect infrastructure projects.

What was different in her Pampanga sortie this time was she spent part of her schedule visiting a friend. She was guest at a birthday celebration in Angeles City for Manila Bulletin correspondent Lino Sanchez.

"I'm 78 years old and I am glad that she's here as I celebrate it," Sanchez said.

Sanchez said he met Ms Arroyo through his father, a photographer and a close friend of the President's late father, former President Diosdado Macapagal. 33 Pampanga in Manila and Governor Cayabyab, Angeles Central Luzon

Walkout of rights activists, royal absences mar Asean summit

MEETING OF EACH MIS Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva (center) leads other Asean leaders, including Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (second from left), Philippine Foreign Minister Alberto Romulo (fourth from left), Myanmar's Prime Minister Thein Sein (left) and Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in joining hands with the representatives of the newly inaugurated Asean rights body in the seaside town of Hua Hin on Friday. AFP

RIGHTS ACTIVISTS Human rights activists (front row from right) Filipina Purificacion Laurel and Indonesian Rafendi Djamin of Singapore, Manichanh Pridaphanh of Laos and Khin Ohmar of Burma talk with journalists outside the media center after their meeting with Asean leaders in Cha-Am, Thailand, on Friday. AP

HUA HIN, Thailand—Asean (Asean) began unraveled closely when half the bloc's 10 leaders failed to show up at the opening of the three-day conference.

The summit will also discuss how best to achieve economic integration by 2015.

The leaders of the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei did not arrive in time for the opening of the meeting.

Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo was running late due to Typhoon Ketsana (internationally called "Lupit"), the third storm in a month due to hit the Philippines, her spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo said.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is heading a visit by South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, Indonesia is meeting its 6-new government and Malaysia's government was preparing its budget in Parliament.

Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah didn't show up until repeats that he was not feeling well.

A first in 42-year history

One of the first orders of business was the inauguration of the Asean Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights which critics say will do little to deter human rights violations, like member Burma (Myanmar), because it imposes no punishments and focuses on promotion rather than protection of human rights.

That Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva called the move "a significant milestone in the evolution of Asean." It is the first human rights watchdog in the bloc's 42-year history.

"The issue of human rights is not about condemnation but about awareness," he said.

A shadow was immediately cast over the body when five Asean governments rejected members of civil society groups they had been scheduled to meet Friday, said Debbie Stothard of The Asean People's Forum, an umbrella group of nongovernment organizations.

The governments of the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Burma and Singapore would not take part in what was to have been an Asean-Civil Society dialogue if the five activists from their countries were present, Stothard said.

Big shame

Instead, some of those activists flew in submarines from so-called civil society organizations with Burma including a former senior police official, Stothard said.

When the meeting took place outdoors the original civil society representatives, those from Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia walked out in protest.

"It is a big shame to our dreams for genuine democracy in the region. It's like all of the human rights of the people in this region have been violated," said Sister Crescentia L. Lucero, a Roman Catholic nun who was to have represented the Philippines at the dialogue.

"It does not bode well for the human rights commission. Asean has lost credibility," Stothard said.

Work in progress

Asean officials respond that the commission is a work in progress and can be strengthened in the future.

They say that agreement on human rights standards is difficult within a grouping that includes two communist states, two kingdoms, a sultanate and military-ruled Burma.

Members of Asean have exclaimed their criticism of Burma. But the association still aspires likely avoid confrontation and maintain that the group's approach to engaging Burma works better than the West's sanctions and threats.

The summit will also sign a declaration on climate change and discuss food security, bioenergy, disaster management and how trade barriers can be brought down to bring about a European Union-style grouping within the next 20 years.

The bloc will also meet with leaders of China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

Massive security

Thailand has deployed more than 16,000 military and police forces to guard the summit, and the summit of the Beach resort of Cha-am, 200 kilometers south of the capital.

"Security forces have also set up emergency escape routes by land, air and sea," Pontoon said. "We don't expect it to be necessary but we want to be ready and to assure leaders that they will be able to meet without distraction."

The government is still assessing how the storming of the East Asian Summit in April in Pattaya International Airport, organized through thin police ranks and forced the evacuation of several leaders by helicopter and boat.

Security forces have also been empowered to impose curfews and restrict freedom of movement around Cha-am and Bangkok.

Legarda appeal

In Manila, Sen. Loren Legarda has urged Ms Arroyo to seek the debarment of the implementation of the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement (Atiga), saying it will "drive out all trade barriers for traded goods—including agricultural products—in Asean states starting January 2010.

Legarda, chair of the Senate agriculture and food committee, said that Trade Secretary Peter Favila earlier signed the Atiga "without the knowledge of the Senate and experts."

With the Philippine rice tariff ceiling from the effects of back-to-back storms, Legarda asked whether it was for the government to allow imported agricultural goods such as rice and corn to enter the country "to the detriment of some millions of rural families.

Reports from AP, AFP and Michael Lim Ubac in Manila

MVP no reconstruction czar after all; his work recommendatory only

RECONSTRUCTION TEAM Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, cochair Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation, Manuel Pangilinan, cochair Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. face the media at the PLDT Building in Makati City on Friday. ORLINA ARCEGA

transparency of the process.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr., who also heads the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), said the work of the private sector would be "strictly speaking, recommendatory in nature," especially since government agencies would rely on their private sector partners for "support."

"The rehabilitation work will run way beyond President Macapagal-Arroyo's term.

More significantly, rebuilding the affected areas will cost much more than the estimated P30 billion in damage caused by tropical storms "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," according to the Special National Public Reconstruction Commission (SNPRC).

In a press briefing, officials of the newly created body said they had yet to come up with a master plan for the work ahead and said the group formed by Mr Arroyo had yet to get a final price tag on the reconstruction effort.

"Intuitively, we can divide the work into relief, early recovery and reconstruction," said Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, who chairs the commission which will work closely with a private sector consultant to be hired by Pangilinan.

"Relief would last anywhere from today until three months from today. Recovery would be anywhere from three months to six months. Reconstruction and rehabilitation will be more than six months," Teves said. "So it will really transcend this present administration."

Post-disaster report

"Our agencies are stretched with the sort functions we have to do," Teodoro said. "So we're trying to ask (for) the help of the private sector so that we will have a clear roadmap as to how and what we can accomplish."

Teves said it would take between three and four weeks before the government to come up with a definitive answer on the magnitude of the reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the affected areas.

The information will be contained in a "post-disaster needs assessment report" that the government is completing at present.

Much more than P10B

The latest estimate puts the damage caused by Ondoy at P11 billion and that caused by Pepeng at P19 billion, for a total of P30 billion.

Teodoro said the cost of reconstruction was expected to exceed that amount significantly, but he declined to validate the P50 billion rough estimate made earlier by Albay Gov. Joey Salceda.

Under the new executive order, Pangilinan will still lead the private sector initiative which will now come in the form of the Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF). The group signed a cooperation agreement yesterday with the government's SNPRC to align their efforts.

Pangilinan will chair the PDRF, with Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal serving as vice chair.

No political advocacy

"We want to assure the donor community, both international and local, and our people, that reconstruction projects will be properly monitored and reported to the people," Pangilinan said.

"We are keenly aware that it is important to ensure the trust and confidence of the public as our purpose in organizing the PDRF is to assist infrastructure reconstruction efforts."

Bernas of this, he said, the PDRF will adopt "universally accepted governance principles," which include the principle of transparency and accountability to the contributors of funds.

"Trustees of our foundation will have to disclose any interview as we for public office in 2010, and the foundation shall not take any political advocacy," he said.

He said the group planned to develop a program "that would map out the short-term 'triple-C level' to relieve the plight of the people, who need immediate help, as well as to outline of the medium- and long-term projects necessary to prevent future disasters.

3 phases

Pangilinan pointed out that disasters had three phases: family warning, relief and longer-term rehabilitation.

"We need to strengthen our early warning systems, particularly for typhoons," he said. "The long terms to where we have to be billed, particularly in terms of flood control."

Fil-Am accused of mistreating Filipino teachers in Louisiana

The union said California-based Universal Placement International and its president, Lourdes "Lulu" Navarro, allegedly violated the law from teachers they recruited in the Philippines.

The AFT also said the company supposedly used immigration documents to intimidate and coerce teachers. For instance, Universal purportedly arranged for one-year visas, instead of the more commonly used three-year visas, and charged the renewal fees to the teachers, not the school systems.

Interests also allegedly insisted on making the living arrangements for teachers, placing them in apartments where they were charged high rents, the complaint said.

She supposedly coerced following the teachers by holding on to their immigration documents, thereby controlling their ability to return to the Philippines for holidays or bring their relatives to the United States for visits.

Teachers paid unfairly

"It is AFT's position that Universal's acts constitute document servitude and violate federal criminal statutes as well," the complaint letter said.

The AFT also said the teachers hired in Caddo and Baton Rouge were allegedly not paid commensurate with their experience.

Navarro did not return calls for comments. Her California office referred calls to a Baton Rouge public relations firm, which did not immediately return calls until press time Thursday.

The union said more than 300 Filipino teachers work in the school systems of Iberville, Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson and Lafourche parishes, the city of Monroe and the special state district. More have taken over the public schools in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Strong control

Teachers recruited by Navarro have been reluctant to speak, according to the LFT, which had filed a complaint with Louisiana Workforce Commission and the Louisiana Attorney General earlier this month. One who did, Isagani Cruz, a teacher in Baton Rouge, said Navarro exercised strong control over the overseas teachers, allegedly dictating where they would live and who they could associate with—even trying to limit her recruits' contacts with other Filipinos.

"She made us sign a letter, addressing it to the Greater Philippine Association of Greater Baton Rouge, telling them that we are not associating ourselves with them," Cruz said in a recent telephone interview from the Baton Rouge magnet school where she teaches mathematics.

Cruz said she racked up thousands of dollars in debt in order to pay Navarro's, Universal and a sister company, PARS International, so she could line up a teaching job in Louisiana and receive a greener degree. She estimated that her salary has risen to roughly $46,000 ($2.1 million)—up from around $23,000 (P1.7 million) when she started—and she has paid off the loans she got from a reputable bank.

Who is Lourdes Navarro?

The LFT website has described Navarro as a native of the Philippines, currently living in California.

"In 2000, she pleaded guilty in California court to charges stemming from an insurance scam. In a federal civil complaint, she admitted in cheating the state medical program out of more than $1 million, which she laundered into cash. According to the settlement, she stole the identity of several physicians to carry out her schemes," the LFT said on its website.

"She was convicted of fraud, grand theft, identity theft, money laundering and white collar crime, she served time in county prison, five years probation and was ordered to pay $2,000,000 in restitution," it added.

In 2003, she was convicted of money laundering in New Jersey, the LFT website said.

"Louisiana law requires disclosure of prior felony convictions as part of the Public Employing Service licensing procedure. Had Navarro applied for a license in Louisiana, she probably would have been denied," the LFT said on its website. "Yet, Universal was [sic] allowed to do business in Louisiana as a 'private employment service,' bringing the question of how she received a license in the first place." *With reports from AP, AFP and www.lft.org*

SMART Bro

THE EXPERTS AGREE.

acer DELL YOURS IS HERE hp lenovo TOSHIBA Leading Innovation

RECOMMENDED BY TOP PC VENDORS

GET THE MOST RECOMMENDED WIRELESS BROADBAND

NOW FOR ONLY ₱995!

Mag-no.1 broadband na!

- Nationwidest Coverage
- Up to 2 Mbps
- Powered by advanced HSPA (High Speed Packet Access) technology
- NOW up to 15 hours internet FREE

Now loaded with ₱300* WORTH OF INTERNET TIME!

www.smart.com.ph/unsartbro

Reliability you can count on anytime, anywhere.

Aplus METRO
Editor Alejandro S. Lllanilla

QC POLICE EYE NPA BREAKAWAY GROUP IN ATTACK ON HOUSE

Neri strafing suspect named

By Julie M. Aurelio

A MEMBER OF A BREAKAWAY group of the New People's Army was charged in the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office yesterday for his alleged involvement in the strafing of the house owned by Social Security System president Romulo Neri on Oct. 9.

The suspect was identified as Daniel Joseph Navarro, reportedly a member of the Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan based in Mexico, Pampanga province.

Navarro, who is still at large, was charged Thursday afternoon with attempted murder, robbery, serious illegal detention and car theft.

He was identified after police recovered a receipt dumped in a trash basket inside a warehouse in Barangay Manresa, Quezon City where a driver of the van commandeered by the suspect and his companions was held briefly.

Chief Insp. Benjamin Rivacoba Jr. of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the receipt was traced to Navarro's girlfriend, Tanee Dajay, of Dasmariñas, Cavite province.

Dajay told investigators that she had purchased some items for Navarro from a Concepcion City store on Oct. 7, as reflected in the receipt.

DCPD director Elmo San Diego said Navarro's group, which is reportedly involved in extortion and gun-for-hire activities, is allegedly led by Lucio Salas, who has a standing warrant of arrest issued by the Pampanga Regional Trial Court.

Motive still unknown

Rivacoba said there was a possibility that the group was hired to carry out the strafing, "but as to the motive and to who did the hiring, we don't know that yet."

Still named Navarro and other John Does in his complaint-affidavit after Quezon City police identified Navarro as one of the suspects in the incident.

Several armed men wearing camouflage uniforms shot at Neri's house on Pilali Street, Barangay Siena in Quezon City, in broad daylight while Neri was taking a shower.

Benjamin Serafica, Neri's driver and bodyguard, confirmed it was Navarro who seized his car 40 yards and ordered him to duck during the strafing, after he was shown a photograph of the suspect obtained by police from the Land Transportation Office.

Serafica and security guard Renato Talbuzat charged Navarro and his henchmen with robbery after the armed men also made off with Serafica's patrol and Talbuzat's cell phone.

Ronald Silvestre, the driver of the van Hyundai van allegedly commandeered by the suspects, also filed a complaint for serious illegal detention and carnapping against Navarro and his still unidentified companions.

Silvestre surfaced a day after the strafing and claimed two men barbecued him in Pampanga and hitched a ride in his van that was later seized by the suspects.

Silvestre said they are still following up leads leading to the identity of the 8 to 10 other men who carried out the attack.

3 nabbed for resale of long distance calls sans NTC registration

WHERE'S THE BRIDGE! A man crosses Marikina River on his bike taking the Sumaranda Bridge in Marikina City. The bridge is still submerged in water, almost one month after the city was severely damaged by Tropical Storm "Ondoy"

JOAN BONDOC

By Jeannette I. Andrade

TWO KOREANS AND THREE Filipino companions were arrested by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents after allegedly engaging in the international simple resale (ISR) of long distance calls that led a telecommunications company to lose P30 million in revenues in three months.

At a press conference yesterday, NBI director Nestor Mantaring identified the suspects as Gyoung Rho and Young Yang, both of President's Avenue, BF Homes in Parañaque City. They allegedly fugitive accomplice, Adelan Adriol, was also taken into custody.

Mantaring said that the three were arrested in a raid on Oct. 21 conducted by agents of the NBI Intelligence Service, acting on a complaint of Globe Telecom Inc.

"Globe converts international communication traffic to local domestic calls that bypass the international gateway facility of Globe Telecom Inc.," said Mantaring. The illegal activity caused Globe Telecom an estimated loss of P30 million in three 3 months."

Globe Telecom security director Ronald Uychiatin and two of the suspects were prompted subscribers of his company who had aborted their subscriptions to engage in ISR.

Uychiatin also pointed out that an ISR activity is not illegal, but the suspects should have registered first with the Station-

ed Telecommunications Commission and should not have used Globe Telecom facilities without any authorization.

Through a search warrant issued by Parañaque City Regional Trial Court Branch 257 Judge Rolando Bino, members of the NBI Intelligence Service raided Geora Marketing Ventures Inc. and Whitewaterish Inc. at the Governorship Place in Barangay City and rounded up the three suspects.

Mantaring said the three were caught in the act of engaging in ISR activities. NBI agents also seized equipment that enabled its operators to tap into the global system for mobile communication (GSM) as well as other apparatus used in ISR.

It was Ruby Rose inside steel drum, PNP tells court

By Beverly T. Mabinidad

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Police Scene of the Crime Operatives (PNP-Soco) formally testified in court yesterday that it was the body of Ruby Barnuevo-Jimenez that was found by police inside a steel drum off the seaside of Navotas City in June.

Supt. Emma L. Cuison, a member of the PNP Crime Laboratory, positively identified the body "through an orthodontist-logical examination" in her testimony in Branch 170 of the Malabon-Navotas Regional Trial Court.

Cuison testified that the body was found in an advance state of decomposition. She also said that the head of the corpse had been wrapped by packing tape, her wrists were handcuffed, and that her feet were tied with coaption cord.

Barnuevo-Jimenez was wearing an earring on her left ear, wore a Lacoste shirt and Victoria's Secret underpants, she added.

The PNP-Soco testimony and evidence were presented by the Department of Justice state prosecutors to block a petition for bail filed by Manuel Jimenez Jr., Barnuevo-Jimenez's father-in-law and one of the accused in the murder.

Supt. Leo Francisco, chief of the Regional Police Intelligence and Operations Unit, who headed operations in search for Ruby Rose's body identified earlier by tracer on how they were able to pinpoint the location of the body.

According to Francisco, they undertook tactical operations to Navotas after receiving information on where to find the body from suspect-turned-witness Manuel Montero.

Cops and guards avoid confronting criminals

AS USUAL, THE POLICE arrived late at the scene of the crime, while the security guards as usual displayed cowardice in the Greenhills 5 mall robbery in Makati City recently.

The saving grace for the police were the headguards of Tagaig Mayor Freddie Tiñga, who happened to be at a restaurant near the store that was being robbed.

The Makati police was called by the store security guards when robbers wearing "bomb squad" uniforms barged into the high-end mall.

Edgar Aglipay, president of Eminent Security Agency that guards Greenhill 5 mall, said his men called the Makati police when a report that a group of men in camouflage police uniforms was in the mall purportedly to answer a bomb threat call.

Just like in the movies, police were arrived at the same after the gunfight between the bad men and good men, with some of the bad men escaping.

All the while, the mall guards didn't do anything while the robbers were trembling the glass of the display counters of the Rolex wristwatches.

Aglipay said the guards were under instructions not to shoot it out with robbers so no shoppers would get hit in the crossfire.

The Ayalas, the mall owners, didn't want a shootout inside the mall, according to Aglipay, former chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

* * *

But are you blame the Makati police for apparently carrying in going to the scene?

And can you blame the security guards for not shooting it out with the robbers even if their territory was violated?

The answer, sadly, is no.

Policemen avoid armed confrontation with criminals as much as possible because they're not good at handling their guns.

Most of them can't hit a paper

ON TARGET Ramon Tulfo

target at three meters, a regular gunfighting distance.

Security guards are issued locally made revolvers that almost always misfire; in short, they're the "devastator" type.

That's the reason big-time criminals—some of whom are either ex-cops or active duty policemen—rule the streets.

They know the inadequacies of policemen and security guards.

* * *

Director Roberto Rosales, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), has drawn up a training program for all three Manila cops that would make them expert shooters and help them adopt sound tactics in shootouts.

Besides his enlisted ex-Army Capt. Philip Mamlayao to train policemen in pistolcraft.

Mamlayao, a reservist in the Philippine army, was a consistent champion in practical shooting in the 1990s.

He trained the Army shooting team that bagged the championship in three straight competitions for several years.

Assigned Public Works Secretary Jun Ebdane, who's running for president, says he's not a traditional politician.

If "traditional politician" means being a boodlemath, then Ebdane is not one.

Ebdane only says truthfully his accomplishments in building roads, bridges and schoolbuildings, and in crime-fighting when he was DND chief, so **maybe people get to know him better.**

But whether or not voters will recognize those achievements is another matter.

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
Visit our cinema ticket booths at
GLORIETTA 4
GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET!
TRINOMA
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARQUEE
or log on to
www.sureseats.com
for web reservation
OPENS NOVEMBER 20
AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

The King of Pop
like you've never seen him before
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
Visit our cinema ticket booths at
GLORIETTA 4 · GREENBELT 3
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
MARKET! MARKET! · TRINOMA
AYALA CENTER CEBU
MARQUEE
or log on to
www.sureseats.com
for web reservation
OPENS OCTOBER 28
AT AYALA MALLS CINEMAS

BIG CATCH Parañaque City Mayor Florencio Bernabe, Jr. (right) inspects bags of marijuana worth approximately P5-M discovered on Kaunlaran Road in Barangay Don Bosco in Parañaque City. Also in photo are Parañaque Police Chief Supt. Alfredo Valdez (center). The illegal substance was allegedly shipped via speedboat from Mindoro and was discovered by Parañaque police and Philippine Coast Guard personnel on Monday. Police said the drugs were bound for Manila. Nine suspects have been arrested in connection with the seizure.

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
(Movies/Schedules Posted Subject To Change Without Prior Notice)
GREENBELT CINEMAS
GLORIETTA CINEMAS
PODIUM CINEMAS
Walter Mart

MetroBriefs

More CCTVs on the road

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has started installing 100 additional closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras along major thoroughfares this week. The new cameras will be placed along seven major roads like Edsa, Commonwealth Avenue, C-5 Road, Marcos Highway, Quirino Avenue, Mukchiar Highway and Pasig Road 13. The CCTVs are monitored by MMDAers at MMDA central traffic monitoring center located at the agency's main office in Makati City. MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said the additional CCTVs will help in improving traffic surveillance and traffic monitoring in the metropolis. Fernando said he expects all the cameras to be fully operational by Dec. 12. **Allison M. Lopez**

Taguig musical staged tonight

THE BEST of Taguig's homegrown talents will come together at 7 p.m. tonight in an original musical called "Ilihan Kalabaan," a small-scale musical produced by the city government at the Bulwagang Fortunato Cruz of Taguig City University on Gen. Santos Avenue, Barangay Upper Bicutan. It showcases Taguig's best homegrown talents, the Change Divas, Bidang Global Dance Group and the Taguig Kite Band. Taguig Mayor Freddie B. Tiñga said the musical is the perfect medium for showcasing the city's skill at same time, promotes the city government's cardiology and wellness drives. Coinciding with the preparations for the inauguration of Bulwagang Fortunato Cruz built in honor of the late Fortunato Cruz, A native of Taguig, Cruz was considered the city's "Hari ng Kundiman" for having established the musical genre in the '30s.

Accounting for NGOs

A SEMINAR on accounting for nongovernment organizations and foundations will be conducted on Oct. 28, 1 p.m. at Richville Hotel, 286 Edsa, Mandaluyong City. Resource speaker is Blandino Clemente Jaen, managing partner of Clemente Jaen, Clemente Jaen & Co., CPAs, and chapter president of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Participants may register by calling Tritum Kreuzlige Center Publishing at 331-4256, 982-1123, 631-0084, 0919-2286117 or 0919-2290199 or by sending an e-mail to tritumdigital@ymail.com or tkcp_phil@yahoo.com.

Free surgery for the poor

ONE-hundred family indigent children and young adults with cleft lip and cleft palates from Makati City and neighboring cities and provinces will undergo surgery for free conducted by medical volunteers of Operation Smile Philippines from Oct. 26 to 30 at the Asian Care Center-Dolphin by Makati in Barangay Bel-Air, Makati City. More than 30 plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, pediatricians, dentists, nurses and speech therapists will take part, supported by DMMA's regular medical staff. Citigroup and Smart Gilas Pilipinas are joint sponsors for this year's mission, said SOP president and executive director Fortunato Nepomuceno. For details, contact Sec. Tedorico Abila Asencio at 811-8736 or 0915-915-0746.

US files Polanski extradition request over 1977 sex case

GENEVA—THE UNITED STATES has asked Switzerland to hand over Roman Polanski to authorities in California, where he is wanted for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year old girl, Swiss authorities said on Friday.

The Justice Ministry said in a statement that Washington filed its formal extradition request late Thursday. The 76-year-old filmmaker has been in Swiss custody since his arrest on Sept. 26 as he arrived in Zurich to attend a film festival.

The request has been forwarded to Zurich authorities, who will hold a hearing on an unspecified date to decide whether Polanski should be sent back to Los Angeles. If extradition is approved, Polanski may appeal the decision to Switzerland's supreme court and, theoretically, to the Federal Supreme Court.

The US had until late November to file for extradition, but the Swiss were already asking on Oct. 5 that the American request the process, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

In an e-mail exchange obtained by the AP under US public records request, Los Angeles prosecutors noted that the "Swiss were very eager to receive an advance English copy of our papers" and "the sooner that the Swiss know we had filed formal papers the better."

There was no mention in correspondence of the intense public scrutiny over Polanski's arrest in the Alpine country, which tipped off US authorities that he was captured five days before his apprehension in Zurich's airport.

Swiss officials have defended the move as routine procedure. But several politicians and commentators have argued that Switzerland may have cooperated too energetically, and that recent US-Swiss troubles over hostility American tax cheats and Swiss banks may have provided motivation for the arrest.

POLANSKI AFP

Polanski, who won a 2003 directing Oscar in absentia for "The Pianist," was accused of raping the 13-year-old girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a modeling shoot in 1977. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy.

Polanski pleaded guilty in the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse. In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and sentenced him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation. Polanski was released after 42 days by an evaluator but the judge said he was going to send him back to serve the remainder of the 90 days. Polanski then fled the country on Feb. 1, 1978, the day he was to be sentenced.

A French native who moved to Poland as a child, the director of such film classics as "Rosemary's Baby" and "Chinatown" has lived in France since finding the United States. France does not extradite its citizens.

Polanski has been fighting since his arrest to be released from jail. He suffered a serious setback earlier this week when the Swiss Criminal Court rejected his appeal because of the high risk he would flee justice again. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

Zelaya sets deadline for return to presidency

TEGUCIGALPA—Deposed Honduran President Manuel Zelaya on Thursday set a midnight deadline for his return to office, or he will withdraw from talks with the de facto government, his chief negotiator said. "If by 12:00 midnight (3 p.m. Saturday in Manila) we haven't received an answer from (de facto leader Roberto) Micheletti's delegation, we'll consider the dialogue terminated," Zelaya's chief negotiator Victor Meza said after meeting behind closed doors with Micheletti's top negotiator. Meza said he asked Micheletti's people to comply with the Organization of American States' ranging Wednesday deal Zelaya be reinstated. Zelaya is a military-backed coup on June 28. Zelaya has been holed up in the Brazilian embassy here since he returned to the country last month. AFP

Cambodia says it would reject Thaksin extradition

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—Cambodia announced on Friday it would reject any Thai request to extradite ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra if he accepts an invitation for refuge in Cambodia, further straining bilateral ties during a key regional summit. Thaksin was ousted as Thai prime minister in a 2006 military coup. He was sentenced to jail in absentia last year and lives in exile. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen this week pre-announced Thaksin a "political victim" and said he was welcome to stay in Cambodia. Thailand responded that it would seek Thaksin's extradition if he took up the offer, under a treaty agreed by two countries in 2001. AP

Sarkozy son renounces top job after nepotism row

PARIS—President Nicolas Sarkozy's 23-year-old son Jean, at the center of a bitter row over alleged nepotism, on Thursday abandoned his bid for a job managing France's wealthiest business district. "I will not go for the presidency" of the Epad agency overseeing development in La Defense district west of Paris, where top French firms are headquartered, the second year law student told France 2 television. His decision is a setback for his father, who had defended his son—even saying he had been "thrown to the wolves"—despite concern among his own right-wing supporters who feared a voter backlash. AFP

Microsoft launches Windows 7

SAN FRANCISCO—Microsoft's much-heralded Windows 7 went on sale around the world on Thursday as the US software giant seeks to reboot after the disappointment of its previous generation operating system Vista. Windows 7 made its global debut to generally good reviews with most technology analysts and users who tested a demo version praising it as a significant improvement on the much-maligned Vista, an upgrade from Vista or the previous operating system Windows XP to the most basic version of Windows 7 costs $119.99 in the United States. Among the new features in Windows 7 is a redesigned task bar for launching programs and switching windows, enhanced ability to share files with other PCs, improved photo—and video-editing software and the ability to stream digital music or video to other devices. Windows 7 also features Microsoft's latest Web browser, Internet Explorer 8. AFP

US cracks down on Mexican drug cartel, arrests 303

WASHINGTON—MEXICO HAS welcomed a massive US operation targeting Mexican drug gangs that included the arrest of 303 people and the seizure of tons of narcotics over two days of raids.

The operation was more than 3,000 federal agents and police officers deployed across 19 US states as part of the longest-running "Project Coronado," which has netted nearly 3,300 suspects since 2005.

"This operation has dealt a significant blow to La Familia's supply chain of drugs, weapons and cash flowing between Mexico and the United States," said US Atty. Gen. Eric Holder.

Mexico's attorney general's office issued a statement welcoming the news.

"The government of Mexico recognizes and appreciates the efforts of the United States in this matter, in its territory, of the 303 alleged members of La Familia," it said.

US President Barack Obama and his Mexican counterpart, Felipe Calderon, have vowed to cooperate against deadly drug cartels.

The deputies deploying 50,000 troops in a nationwide crackdown on drug gangs, Calderon has so far failed to stem Mexico's spiraling drug violence, which has killed some 14,000 people since late 2006.

La Familia controls drug production and distribution in the southwestern Mexican state of Michoacan and from there ships vast quantities of cocaine and methamphetamine to the United States, US officials said.

The pseudo-Christian, cult-like drug organization made a dramatic entrance in Mexico in 2006 when its members rolled five decapitated heads onto a dance floor in a nightclub.

"The sheer level and depravity of violence that this cartel has established far exceeds what we unfortunately have become accustomed to from other cartels," Holder told reporters.

"By striking their drugs and spending their supply chains, we have disrupted their business on several tiers of operations."

Since Coronado began, US authorities have seized $32 million in cash, over 1,225 kilograms of methamphetamine, nearly 2,000 kg of cocaine, 11 kg of heroin and some 7,257 kg of marijuana.

Nearly 400 weapons were seized in the past two days alone. AFP

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE
Pasay City

INVITATION TO RE-BID

The Senate of the Philippines through its Bids and Awards Committee invites all G-EPS registered bidders/suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid on the following:

	DESCRIPTION	QTY	PROJECT ALLOCATION	BOA RECOMMENDED
1	FY'09 SE Subscription to Cable TV	Lot	Php495,000.00	Php495,000.00
2	FY'09 SE Supply of Gasoline & Diesel fuel	Lot	Php2,000,000.00	Php2,000,000.00
3	Supply and delivery of toilet paper used (Jewel 3-Ply) with specs: non-bleached, with thermal regulator & water resistant/ Embossed	10 packs	Php570.00	Php550.00
4	FY'09 SE Canteen/Concession & Catering Services	Lot	Concession basis	Php500.00

The bidding documents shall be available to interested bidders/suppliers at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 407, 4/F Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **9:00-12:00 NN and 2-5 PM**, starting October 26, 2009 upon payment of non-refundable fee as indicated above. The schedule of pre-bidding conference/s and submission/opening of bids are as follows:

PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE	NOVEMBER 3, 2009 (Monday), 10 AM
SUBMISSION & OPENING OF BIDS	November 11, 2009 (Monday), 10 AM

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bid evaluation, and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. **LATE BIDS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED. ALTERNATIVE BIDS SHALL BE REJECTED.**

This invitation is also advertised with the Government Electronic Procurement System (G-EPS) and posted on the Senate bulletin boards.

For inquiry, please call the BAC Secretariat Office at telephone no. 552-6601 local 3662 (c/o Rose de Castro).

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO: 1) REJECT/WAIVE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS; 2) REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; 3) CONFISCATE THE BID SECURITY AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD A BIDDER BE FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED R.A. 9184; 4) WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN; and/or 5) ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT. ANY DECISION MADE BY THE SENATE IS FINAL AND EXECUTORY.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE GOVERNMENT THE BIDDER (prospective) AS IS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT SAID PARTY/IES MAY INCUR IN ITS/THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PRE-BIDDING AND BIDDING PROCESS NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ARNEL JOSE D. BAÑAS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
FOR THE TRANSFER OF REGION VI STOCKS THROUGH VOYAGE CHARTER

The National Food Authority (Region VI), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested licensed operators of inland/seagoing vessel/s (owned or chartered) through Spot/Voyage Charter to apply for eligibility and to bid under the Invitation to Inland/Barge Hire, Project Reference No. NFA-2009-11, for the transfer of Region VI's rice stocks to its warehouses in Luzon, as follows:

Lot No.	Inland/Seaport	Volume to load (in MT)	ABC/Barge (Php)	Total ABC (Php)	Bidding Fee
	Shipment in the Iloilo Area (City to Port)				
1	Iloilo City	20,000	Php 50	1,000,000.00	2,000.00
2	Dumangas City	100,000	50.00	5,000,000.00	10,000.00
	Shipment in the Bicol Area (Port to Port)				
3	Legazpi City, Cagsi to Iloilo City	20,000	40.00	800,000.00	2,000.00

Interested shipping companies/owners/barge owners/charterers must have the capability to position the cargo vessel* to load the entire lot of designated ports within (10) calendar days from receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

*vessel = 1 barge accompanied by assistant with full operational/maneuverability/navigational gears (see the Annex).

Prospective bidders should furnish examination or undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with the amount of at least 50% of the contract cost. Bidder's Duly Licensed Filipino Vessel/s must be at least twenty (20) years old or less, duly registered with the Philippine Coast Guard, in the Philippine navigable waters, and have a capacity of at least three (3) completed similar contracts in the aggregate amount of at least 50% of the ABC. Provided, further, that the bidder/s must submit the following documents: Valid and current Certificate of Philippine Registry; Valid and current Certificate of Inspection; Valid and current Certificate of Classification; Valid and current Certificate of Safety Management; Valid and current Certificate of Insurance; Valid and current Certificate of Crew List; Valid and current Certificate of Radio Station; Valid and current Certificate of Ship Security; Valid and current Certificate of Ship Sanitation; Valid and current Certificate of Deratting

The WORLD

Editor Lorenzo B. Ibarra

Thai king appears in public after a month in hospital

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S REVERED KING MADE HIS FIRST public appearance since being hospitalized a month ago, easing fears over the health of the monarch who has helped stabilize his turbulent nation for decades.

The 81-year-old Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-reigning royal, was pictured on television being pushed in a cushioned wheelchair by a team of royal physicians at Siriraj hospital in Bangkok.

Separated as a shrieked by many Thais, the king was admitted to hospital on Sept. 19 with a lung infection and liver and spleen ailment that his health had deteriorated over the nation's stock market tumbling last week.

Channel 9 reported that King Bhumibol paid homage to his grandfather, King Chulalongkorn, whose death is marked on Friday by a public holiday. Footage showed him wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt and black trousers.

The royal also paid homage to his late parents and visited a photographic exhibition at the hospital in honor of his late mother.

The television report said the king then visited a bookstore before returning to the wing where he has been receiving treatment.

A crowd of dozens of people quickly gathered at the hospital, chanting "long live the king!" as he was wheeled out about the grounds.

"I ran from the river into where I heard the king had come down and I shouted 'long live the king,'" one woman said. "I want him to live with the Thai people for a long, long time."

The king's health is a sensitive topic in light of the turmoil that has rocked Thailand for three years since former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was toppled in a 2006 coup.

On Thursday, the royal household released a statement saying it would no longer issue daily updates on the king's health.

"The general condition of the king is stable, he has gained strength and can eat and sleep as normal, but the team of royal physicians continues to administer antibiotics," the statement said.

"The royal hierarchy will make an announcement if there is any change in his condition," it said.

The only direct comment from the royal family came last Friday from the king's daughter, Princess Chulabhorn, who said doctors had assured the family that he was out of danger.

Political analyst Thitinan Pongsudhirak said the appearance would help shore up confidence in the stock market after the baht plunged 8.11 percent at one point last Thursday, despite attempts by its central to reassure investors. AFP

THAI KING Bhumibol Adulyadej sits on a wheelchair during an appearance at a hospital in Bangkok. King Bhumibol appeared in public for the first time since being hospitalized one month ago, easing fears over the health of the 81-year-old. AFP

Light Railway Transit Authority (LRTA) receives PhP200 Million Grant from SM Prime Holdings, Inc. The Light Railway Transit Authority (LRTA) recently accepted a PhP200 Million grant from SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SMPH) to partially finance the construction of the common station interconnecting the respective rail systems of the LRTA, the Metrorail Transit Corporation and the Universal LRT Corporation (MRT 7) in front of SM City North EDSA. Present during the turnover ceremony are (L-R): Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) Undersecretary for Maritime Transportation Thompson Lardizon, LRTA Administrator Melquiades A. Robles, DOTC Secretary Leandro R. Mendoza, SMPH Director Henry Sy, Jr. and SMPH Executive Vice President and Chief Finance Officer Jeffrey C. Lim.

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Lady Stags do the trick anew /A24

Editor Teodoro L. Mijares • Assoc. Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa
SPORTS

■ Pacquiao flies to Los Angeles /A25

Undermanned Kings rout green Aspirants

By Musong R. Castillo

HAD THEY BEEN PLAYING IN A DIFFERENT setting, Berngen Giraffers coach Joey Uichico would have gladly given the Smart Gilas Nationals all the credit deserve they need.

"We'd like to help her, sometimes, stressing gets in the way of preparing the national team," Uichico said yesterday after guiding his undermanned Ateneo Kings to a 100-73 tripping of the national team aspirants in the 85th NBA Philippine Cup eliminations at the Cuneta As-

GINEBRA'S JC Intal breaks away from (R) Nard of Smart Gilas for a dunk in yesterday's lopsided encounter at the Cuneta Astrodome. NOEL CELIS

trodome in Pasay City.

"We needed the win and we had to do whatever we could to try and win the game," Uichico, himself a former national team, added. "It's hard (mentally, for them) to be dominated that way."

The victory lessened the Kings to a 5-6 slate.

Gilas played without veterans Mark Caguioa, who is expected to be out for a minimum of four weeks because of a left knee injury, and Eric Menk.

Smart Gilas team leader Chris Tiu, who was nursing a shoulder injury and notwithstanding candidate CJ Giles missed the second straight lopsided defeat for the Aspirants.

Coming into the arena in street clothes, Giles, the former Los Angeles Lakers rookie forward on the games 7th game of the roster slot for his four-year-old son in the United States has some blood disease.

Ronald Tubid led the Kings with 22 points and Jaydee Sidlexbrand chipped in 15.

Mark Barroca paced Smart Gilas with 20 with LAnd~MM~Sidek Al-Hussaini of Ateneo adding 14.

Meanwhile, Barger King tries to get back on track and keep a dangerous foot or three-spread window when they collide today in a Phoenix Fuel-PBA road game at the Iloilo Lapuz gym in Cagayan, Misamis Oriental.

Game time is 3 p.m. with the Whoppers aiming not to improve to a level 2-2 card.

UNDERMANNED /A24

THE LEGEND:
A Mesmerizing Magazine Tribute

Still on cloud nine, Stags gun for clincher vs Lions

By Cedrill Tagas

ON THE VERGE OF SPOILING A UPsetting the San Sebastian Stags are undaunted.

"We're coming off a big win and we just need to capitalize on this," San Sebastian coach Ato Agustin said.

The Stags take the first of their twin chances at snatching the crown and ending San Beda's reign in the NCAA basketball tournament today in Game 2 of their best-of-three title series at the Araneta Coliseum.

And for Agustin, the thrilling 71-69 double overtime victory in Game 1, gives them a huge edge against a San Beda squad on the brink of losing its title after rolling the league the past three years.

"The morale of the team is very high," said Agustin, whose team is aiming to give San Sebastian its 12th title and its first in seven years.

"I just hope we show it on the court... playing without pressure."

The Stags, though, are bent on extending the series to Game 3, if necessary, to unfold on Thursday.

GAME 2 TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
2 p.m. — Letran vs. San Beda
4 p.m. — San Beda vs. San Sebastian

"We're looking to bounce back tomorrow (today), try to extend the series and make proper adjustments," said San Beda mentor Frankie Lim.

The Stags dominated the boards in Game 1, 73-64, and the statistic was no less on Lim.

"We also got beaten off the boards; we cannot allow them to get 52 offensive rebounds," said Lim.

Shooting is also a cause of concern for Lim as his Lions shot just 27 percent from the field in Game 1.

But Lim saw something positive from the Lions' defeat.

"If there's something good about it, we didn't play that well but they had a hard time beating us," he said.

"We'll push this in Game Three, we'll come out strong tomorrow."

Rookie Aquino and Calvin Abueva sparked the Lions' last-ditch rally with clutch hits from the three-line in the second overtime. Aquino finished with 24 points and 12 rebounds, while Abueva grabbed a career-best 23 rebounds that came with 10 points and four blocks.

While the Lions are just trying to stay alive, the Red Cubs hope to sweep the Jesters' finale against Letran at 2 p.m.

The Cubs jumped the gun on the Spirits, 98-75, in the opener. A win by the Red Cubs will give Coach Jimmy Gee San Beda coach Art Boholst-Caballa a fitting send-off.

Boholst-Caballa, who steered the Cubs to 13 titles, is retiring after the season to focus on his work as athletic director.

Lady Stags do the trick anew

Thump Lady Blazers; FEU scores

By Cedrill Tagas

DIFFERENT TOURNAMENT, SIMILAR RESULTS.

Deyback remained elusive for St. Benilde yesterday as the San Sebastian Lady Stags overpowered their cousins the Lady Blazers in a rubber match, 25-21, 19-25, 25-14 victory here en route to the Shakey's V-League Season 6 second conference in the Filoil-Flying V Arena in San Juan.

Drawing a solid outing from sophomore Princess Cruz, the Lady Stags showed little mercy against the Lady Blazers, who bowed to the San Sebastian runners in the best-of-three finals for the NCAA crown last Sunday.

Earlier, the Emperors (1) marched to third victory in four games with a 25-20, 23-25, 25-21, 25-19 thumping of winless Cruisers.

Summoning the form that made her one of the most popular players in the league, Rachel Daquis pumped in 22 points to shove the Lady Emperors to sole third, behind University of Santo Tomas and San Sebastian.

The 5-foot-10 Daquis fired 10 kills and delivered four service aces, while Shaira Gonzales finished with 21 and Cherry Sison, thriving in her counter-attacking role, added 17.

Save for the second-set collapse, the Lady Tamaraws were in control as they finished off the Lady Eagles in an hour and 45 minutes.

But Emperors coach Roger Gorayeb attributed the victory to adjustments on their floor defense in the third and fourth sets.

The Lady Tamaraws cut the angles on the Arrows attackers, including guest player Diana Tomboc, who was limited to 10 points. Fille Cainglet paced the Lady Eagles with 20.

It was the second straight loss for the Lady Eagles, who also dropped a 25-23, 17-25, 19-25, 20-25 decision to the Tigresses on Tuesday.

San Sebastian coach Roger Gorayeb feels the Lady Stalers have yet to outgrow from their setback in the NCAA.

"Their game last game down after the finals in the NCAA," said Gorayeb of the Lady Blazers, who fell to their second straight loss, to a tie with Lyceum.

"I think they are still reeling from their loss to us last Sunday."

REIN. Agnes of St. Benilde catches San Sebastian's Margie Pegoles (left) and Jessa Mondejar off guard with a wily tip-in. AGUSTIN CRUZ

Ricafuente stirs Thais; ABL tiffs on ESPN, TV-5

By Jasmine W. Payo

THAILAND'S FILipino import Ricky Ricafuente landed his former team when the Tipers shoot for their first road game win against the Philippine Navigators tomorrow in the Asean Basketball League.

Ricafuente, a veteran Liga Filipinas guard, rammed an invitation to suit up for the Tipers last week after riding the bench in the Navigators' 76-85 opening day triumph against Indonesia Satria Muda Bhinneka in Jakarta last Oct. 10.

And the 5-foot-9 Ricafuente quickly made his mark by drifting a team-high 23 points in the Tipers' slim 75-74 setback against the heavily favored Indonesian squad.

But coach Louie Alas expects new acquisitions Sonny Barlan of UAAP champion Ateneo and University of the East's Elmer Japitana and Mel Artacho to provide additional firepower at both ends as the Tipers try to rebound from a 74-69 defeat to the Philippine Navigators.

"Definitely, these players will make a huge impact in the team and in the league," said Alas. "They are exciting players with different talents."

Team owners Mikee Romero and Tony Boy Cojuangco also announced yesterday that the first season of the Philippine Basketball Association will coincide with the historic live game telecast of international sports network ESPN and local network TV 5 (formerly ABC 5).

The Partizan Tigers duel Siena off at 4 p.m. tomorrow at the Ynares Sports Arena in Pasig City, Intramuros is free.

"This is a good indication that the league is doing great," said Barbasan Greater owner Romero. "With the help of TV-5 people, I'm sure the league will grow faster and bigger."

PATROMBON. Aggressive play

Patrombon gains Osaka net q'finals

WORKING BEHIND A SOLID FOREHAND, Filipina junior hotshot Jenn Patrombon overcame seeded Indian Nidhi Mendiratta, 6-3, 6-3, Friday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Osaka Mayor's Cup World Junior Junior Tennis Championships in Japan.

The 16-year-old Patrombon, whose game resembles that of Cecil Mamiit, harassed Nidhi Mendiratta with his aggressive play to move on the last night of the elite event, a tricky 1 tournament rated one rung below the Grand Slam events.

"We came here in the World Junior to test our skills with the best," said Patrombon's coach, Manny Tecson. "Now we are in the top-8 of the tournament and who knows we might go all the way with help from above."

The only Filipina left in the large singles event besides Australian Jessa Mumby Robles, the 15th seed who bundled out Chinese Taipei's Hsieh Cheng-peng, 6-3, 6-1. The fifth-seeded Hsieh partnered Filipino Francis Casey Alcantara in the Japanese double title of this year's Australian Open.

Alcantara bowed out in the second round.

"It gives me indeed for Jenn and a proved that we Filipinos are at par with these world-class players," said Tecson, the former RP Davis Cup skipper.

In one of the last 16's biggest upsets, Japan's Takeshi Ende's shocked top seed Daniel Berta of Sweden, 6-3, 7-5.

Mart Anthony Reyes

This PBA chapter needs a sane ending

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

UMAIN A HIGH SCHOOL THE BASKETBALL courts of Visayas schools needs no discussion).

One thumping dribble down the floor and you know he was born to be a basketball warrior.

Hefty torso and thick around the chest, he resembles a shotgun whose muzzle had been sawed off.

He is, in short, no one to be an embassy behooving to that vast breed of rugged bangers scientific enough to carry out coach play-by-play assignments.

* * *

Like his predecessors in local basketball, Asheboda is above all a necessitator. How Andrew Demister plays can either save or ruin subscriptions.

He's of the gutsy sort: salty numbers will never hesitate to suffer.

* * *

How Asheboda practically put an abrupt end to his colorful career is, of course, another story.

It belongs to a chapter skewered from clan feud one about the legendary rudeness in Philippine basketball.

Wes Enrico, the villain of Carlos Badion, Rogelio Melencio and Ruben Jaramillo, is same only those who blamed the rugged soul in international competitions riding on their skills, guts and heroism, not necessarily in that order.

* * *

Meanwhile of this Sangguniang Bayan) last side of Visayas events to usher at rounds as they give.

Statistically, this terrible title score gives some extravagance. Badion was Bonus Boston and still no Ball Boy. Melencio was Tambuong and Jaramillo was Big Jim of many names.

Who knows? Asheboda may have wanted to closely creep into the exclusive roof of this race and rapped hands—until he went berserk and smashed a noisy spectator as the special etiquette sentence just went.

* * *

"If Asheboda was King, my fellow visitor Eric Cortez (Jose and Asheboda to fight Miguel Cuaco)," proposed hefty Asheboda arena while polishing his big vehicle on the—scratch—motorcycle.

A fourteen-college-bangers who saw Jose Rizal University-area still talked 2002 in the NCAA, Dr. Jesus sounded first with his suggestion.

Of course, the former Bad Boy was also half-kidding, but it did help Asheboda fan-base Asheboda fan amassed a notoriety that is a godless world away from the real Badion-Melencio-Jaramillo R.O.J. feat (before it).

* * *

While Jaworski and his rare comedian postseasons have become synonymous to guts and finesses in basketball, Asheboda is left to measure a diamond-hit tag can see differ-ent from that of a rapist.

Never. Treasure Mercene, premier golfer and legendary PBA coach: "In the middle of the second quarter ... Asheboda destined to change uniform from pro-cager to UFC fighter. He committed four fouls, two of these Bonapaties, and then smashed a fan—all in, officially, three minutes of playing time."

* * *

The PBA was caught flattened.

Minutes was wondered if Asheboda, later described as an angel-off the playing-zone, ever set his toes after he turned from referee to cage-terror inside the court.

Did Asheboda take-advised?

"If the PBA technical committee was competent, it would've readily put a stop to the shenanigans," Mariano said.

Anyway, to demonstrate its competence, the PBA now threatened major offenders with a lifetime ban—equal to a cocked gun—in order to restore sanity in the playscape.

They also call it a happy ending.

Feliciano, Aguilar bag Nuvali bike crowns

FORMER AMAN MONTAÑO bike king Frederick Feliciano and motocross star Glenn Aguilar bagged the top prizes in the Nuvali Outdoor Adventure Challenge, made more challenging by muddy tracks, in Sta. Rosa City and Calamba, Laguna.

Feliciano overcame fifteen riders in the first 15-kilometer loop to cop the 40K cross-country Elite title while Aguilar rolled the Elite Open four-cross race. They won P10,000 each.

The 26-year-old Feliciano, also a former Southeast Asian Games silver medalist, said the soggy course complicated the event's strategies.

"There were several ripples," said Feliciano, a native of Alfaro, Batangas. "It was really a difficult course. I was happy to finish first."

Aguilar, a 23-year-old bemypersonal, said that after finishing the final in the first 15 km, the difficulty of pedaling across wet tracks took its toll on his legs. He credited for the second point of 17,000.

Another Aeroyman, Alvin Herrera, placed third and pocketed P5,000 in the two-day dirt bike race staged at the 1,700-hectare Ayala Land Inc. property.

Race organizer and former national mountain bike coach Arjan Sirolo said about 300 bikers took part in the cross-country, four-cross and dirt jump competitions.

Sirolo, pressed manager Jun Dimayuga said the overwhelming response prompted them to place more mountain bike activities on the course in the future.

"Many of those who came to the dirt bike clinics and activities were pleasantly surprised to find a nature haven, complete with all the modern facilities," he said.

Jasmine B. Asuncion

Undermanned Kings rout green Smart Gilas Aspirants

Powerhouse 4-13

Powderpuffs, getting 17 points each from centerpieces Jason Ray and Rudy Barroccuda, ripped Smoke Bull here, 90-75, to rise to 2-1.

The Smoke Jeep Gizmo, a pre-tournament favorite, were in command all throughout—the result of what coach Ryan Gregorio said was "the respect" they accorded the league's weakest team on paper, which fell to 1-2.

Ray scored 11 of his total in the final two periods, while Hapinoods teammates scored points in the third and eight in the final frame to take Player of the Game honors. Jhon Allado added 12 while Roger Ilagan contributed 11.

"I told the players that this is one game that we cannot take for granted," Gregorio said. "We were up against a team that wanted to prove something. In the end, I think the respect we accorded them paid off.

Rookie Bagumon Shone led the Energy Boosters with 14 points, while Ary Gilmore, the 6-foot-7 journeyman center, added 13 and 18 rebounds.

The scores:

SMART GILAS (90) – Ilagan 11, Bagumon 14, Gilmore 13, Ramos 0, Ilagan 0, Sangalang 0, Cabagnot 0, Aquino 6, Mendoza 0

Angels nip Yankees, keep ALCS bid afloat

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA—RYDER MICHAEL drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the seventh inning as the Los Angeles Angels edged the Yankees, 7-6, Thursday night to trim New York's lead in the American League championship series to 3-2.

Mariano Guerrero's single tied it in the seventh for the Angels, who somehow didn't surrender after blowing a 4-0 lead moments earlier to fall 0-4 behind. New York struck immediately after manager Mike Scioscia removed ace John Lackey.

The Game 5 thriller continued right up to the final pitch, when Angels closer Brian Fuentes entered. Nick Swisher on a full-count popup with the bases loaded.

"Everybody thought we were down," Angels outfielder Torii Hunter said.

Game 6 is Saturday night in Yankee Stadium, with Andy Pettitte facing Los Angeles' Joe Saunders. Also in the forecast: A huge entrance.

When Game 5 in New York up 6-4, everything in another frigid Stadium pointed to a deafening victory and a 40th AL pennant for the Yankees.

Instead, the Angels showed off the knack for late-game comebacks they've pioneered ever since their run to their only championship in 2002.

"It's a missed opportunity, but we still have another game," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "We've bounced back from tough losses all year long. We've had it happen to us before and been able to get off the canvas."

Although two games in the Bronx—and decorated starter CC Sabathia—still stand in the Angels' way, the collapse ousted the slight-est echoes of what happened to the Yankees' last big lead in an ALCS. The Red Sox famously rallied from an 0-3 deficit in 2004, making a late rally to win Game 4 before finishing off the biggest comeback in baseball history in seven games.

Only six times have rallied from a 3-1 deficit to win a league championship series—most recently in 2007, when Boston came back against Cleveland on the way to a title. AP

DEREK JETER (above) and the New York Yankees still need one win to handle Jeff Mathis (below) and the Los Angeles Angels.

Pacquiao flies to Los Angeles

Sets up camp at Wild Card gym

MANNY PACQUIAO LOOMS FOR LOS ANgeles today with trainer Freddie Roach telling the ground-for-ground champion in "90 percent" shape as he hunts for Miguel Cotto's welterweight crown on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas.

"Manny is 90 percent now," Roach told reporters during the Kings Kones yesterday. "We have finished the distractions very well."

Pacquiao will land in Los Angeles weighing 146.5 pounds, just 1½ lb above the catch weight of the fight with still several training days ahead of him.

"I have to feed Manny five times a day in morning camp to keep his weight on purpose," Roach said. "He has to drink three protein shakes a day. He hates the protein shakes."

Roach expects Pacquiao to be ready 140 lb during the weigh-in and says the boxer could step 140 or 139 lb during the fight—which will be for Cotto's WBO welterweight belt.

Roach also seemed that he'll call the fight off if Cotto comes in beyond the regular welterweight limit of 147 lb.

"Our limit for Cotto is just 147 lb. If he's overweight," Roach said. "There's no fight if he's weight beyond that. Cotto will be rewarded a $2 million penalty for every pound overweight."

Roach plans to stir Pacquiao on Cotto in the early rounds, noting that the Puerto Rican star is prone to slow starts and has fallen early in the latest several times during his career.

ROACH

Pacquiao is due to arrive in Los Angeles today with trainer Freddie Roach and his sparmates Jason Escalera and Ivan Calderon, who will help him prepare for the Cotto fight.

Pacquiao is expected to work out at the Wild Card gym in Los Angeles, where he has trained for his last four fights, including his last three in the first round at least seven times he's been down a couple of fights."

Cotto is listed as the underdog in the match, with betting lines listing Pacquiao a -200 favorite and his opponent a +170 underdog. This means that a $100 bet on Cotto can win $170, while to win $100 on Pacquiao, one would have to bet $200.

But speaking from Tampa, Florida, Cotto trainer Joe Santiago said that he is confident his team will pull off the upset's biggest upset.

"When that night comes and he wins, everyone will know that Puerto Rico does have the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world," said Santiago. "Cotto is the first one-on-one welterweight that [Pacquiao] will have fought. He is young and still to be prime so that is what Pacquiao will face."

Premium Dubon, AFP

Filipinos out to stop another Kenyan sweep

By Rowena S. Ramirez

VETERAN LOCAL RUNNERS LED BY Allan Bellosta and Bernardito Bonsavia will try to break the Kenyan stranglehold during the 32nd Intercable International Marathon today at the Subic Clark Tarlac Expressway.

Alejalo Bellosta, Alley Quiray and Elmer Gabal are also entered in the 42.195-kilometer race, which has an 4:30 p.m. gunshot). Top prize is ₱1,000 (about ₱155,000).

Defending champion Nelson Rirwa Rotich of Kenya will be back, along with countryman Sidney Cheboiwo Lagat, Vincent Kipchirchir Chepkirui, Samuel Tsuma Tei, David Kipkorch Kipsang, Willy Kipkemoi Kipsang and Daniel Kipkemoi Kiprugut.

Rotich clocked 2:27:00 to beat Ildefonso Bonsavia who came in 55 seconds later. Another Kenyan, Geoffrey Kipruto Kiruagei, was third in 2:28:17.

Lagat was the 2008 Utah Marathon winner while Tei placed second in last Sunday's inaugural Quezon City International Marathon, which is lead the Kenyan runners-up three spots in both men's and women's full marathon.

Bonsavia is not running this time as he is preparing for the December Southeast Asian Games in Laos.

The all-Filipino women's field last year was ruled by Eureka Mercado Elizer with 2:22:15. This year, the female runners here will be led by OCBC runner-up Lydia Jovelyn Nario and Sarah Jayehardt Mojos.

Runners from the United States, Malaysia, China, Singapore, Taiwan and New Zealand have likewise confirmed their participation.

The 10K race will also be held today while the 21K, 5K and 3K races begin at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

Members of the Smart Gilas KP developmental squad led by team captain Chris Tiu and the Olympiangas Basketball Club coach Adonis Tierro will join the bet runs along with singers Jaya Weiler, Luke Wijpers and other movie stars.

Fernando leads SEAG golf qualifiers

By Manny R. Castillo

SILANG, CAVITE—RIZALDINO FERnando, national amateur champion Mark Fernando closed out with a three-under 69 to overtake and win the 54-hole stroke play qualifying tournament for members of the Philippine golf team in the Southeast Asian Games in Laos in December.

Fernando, who opened the tournament Saturday with a five-over card after his first three holes, finished with 209 and won by one shot over Jozel Abalos, who finished par in the difficult Langer course of the Riviera for the first time with a 73.

Sandro Asinio and Rufino Reyes rounded out the PP squad after finishing third and fourth, respectively, to the 72-hole qualifier.

Asinio, who shared co-led after each of the first two rounds, finished a shot behind Abalos at 208 after a 72, the same total of Reyes.

It was Reyes's last-gasp qualification, though, that highlighted Oct-end action. The elite long-hitter from Davao edged out Peter Hill, after by a shot with a 280 and completed his rally from the near-bottom of the pack.

Reyes had a 70 in the first round on Thursday.

Villabos, who was looking to make it to his first national squad, shot his worst score for the week... a 74—which knocked him out of the third spot he had occupied after the first three rounds.

United States-based Juliano Estanislao failed to join the squad after finishing in sixth spot with a 291.

Steve Hernandez, Mian Ilerbaran, and Bing Bunyi, meanwhile, took the three spots available in the Senior 50 squad competing in the Asia-Pacific Golf Championship as they capped their sojourn to 54-hole qualifier that ended Thursday.

Hernandez finished with a 216 after a 70 while Ilerbaran had an 83-84 a 231. Bunyi rallied with an 81 and edged over-the-hill rival-ing Pepot Bigo for the last spot with a 245. Bigo limped with an 87 and wound up with a 248.

They will join seeded players Richie Garcia, Iggy Caravello and Tommy Wanston.

Philippine International Trading Corporation
PITC
INVITATION TO BID
Supply and Delivery of Brand New Prisoner Vans for the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP)
Bid Ref. No. 2009 -085
Approved Budget for the Contract: ₱121,000,000.00

1. The Philippine International Trading Corporation (PITC) on for Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) intend to apply the sum of One Hundred Twenty One Million Pesos (₱121,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Supply and Delivery of Brand New Prisoner Vans more particularly described as follows:

Quantity	Description	ABC (PhP)	Trucking Charges	Bid Security Each (5%)	Bid Security Equivalent to Performance Security (30%) Cash, Bank Manager's/Cashier's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee, Surety Bond	Cost/Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
50 units	Brand New Prisoner Vans	₱121,000,000.00 (₱2,420,000.00/unit)	3,000 km. & 60 days	₱6,050,000.00	₱18,150,000.00	₱10,000.00

*Duly Issued Issued and Accredited by Authorized Commercial Banks

2. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening. Late bids shall not be accepted.

3. PITC and BJMP now invite bids from pre-qualified Automotive Dealers/Manufacturers for the Supply and Delivery of Brand New Prisoner Vans for the BJMP. Delivery of the Vans is required within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Notice of Award. Bidders should state the delivery period in the Bid Form. Bidders are to submit the Bid Form (B) quoted from the date of submission and receipt of bids, as detailed in the bidding documents and accomplished in accordance with the instructions provided in the Invitation to Bid and the Bidding Documents.

4. Interested bidders may obtain the Bidding Documents from PITC and may purchase a complete set of the Bidding Documents, Terms and Conditions (BDC) of Bidders for P5,000 (Five Thousand Pesos) upon payment of the Non-refundable Bidding Fee in the form of Manager's/Cashier's Check, Bank Draft/Guarantee, Surety Bond, Cash, Bank

HOME SECURITY SOLUTIONS FROM ACE HARDWARE

THIS KOWIE Indoor Dome Camera has 3.6 mm lens

THIS ACEL digital electronic lock with elegant design and integrated user convenience can be unlocked with PIN, fingerprint and mechanical key

THIS SOYER wireless infrared camera kit includes wireless camera, wireless receiver, AV Cable and Power Supply. It has infrared LEDs for night vision and weather proof for outdoor usage

There's no place like home - it's our comfort zone, our retreat from the cares of the world. We'd all like to protect this special place, and ACE Hardware, the Helpful Place, has home security systems that will make your home a safe haven for you and your family.

These include alarm systems for doors and windows, digital door/home lock systems that use biometric technology, as well as video surveillance and CCTV systems to monitor goings on around your home.

And while checking out home security systems at ACE Hardware and ACE Builders stores, also take a look at its ongoing Outdoor Fun for Everyone promotion until October 31 where one can get great discounts and rebates on outdoor items such as tents, grills, barbecue, folding chairs, sleeping bags and coolers. You can even receive points when you use your SM Advantage Card, SM Prestige Card, as well as your BDO Rewards Card.

ACE Hardware stores are located at SM Hypermarket Makati, SM Center Las Piñas, SM Makati, SM Sucat, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Marikina, SM City Bicutan, SM City San Lazaro, SM City Manila, and the SM Mall of Asia; as well as Supermarkets in Pasig and Valenzuela. In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Bacolod, Dasmariñas, Molino, Batangas, Lucena, Clark, Iloilo, Baguio, Rosales, Tabbaog, and Sta. Rosa in Luzon, as well as Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, and Cagayan de Oro in the Visayas area. These are also available at ACE Builders Centers at SM City North EDSA, SM City Pampanga, and SM City Fairview.

THIS SHEPHERD motion sensor with remote control detects movement up to 20 feet away

SHEPHERD window alarm with magnetic sensor switch and Shepherd magnetic contact window alarm pack alarm with ultra loud 110 dB alarm

THIS SHEPHERD motion alarm with remote control detects movement up to 20 feet away

THE SHEPHERD DIY 4 Channel DVR and 4 Color Camera kit for home security

ACE The helpful place

Outdoor Fun for Everyone

Coleman ₱4,199.75

Coleman ₱1,399.75

4 Person Tent ₱950

Sleeping Bag ₱595

Deitz ₱399 ₱369

Gazebo Tent ₱995

Gazebo Tent ₱3,999.75

Camping Chair ₱795

Camping Chair ₱395

Kiddie Camping Chair ₱295

"95" Dome ₱850

Nikko ₱1,849.75

Iwatani ₱1,199.75

Coleman ₱1,299 ₱1,399 ₱1,699

Fiesta Thermo Chest ₱729 ₱389 ₱799 ₱1,299

Earn reward points with your

Now thru October 31

ACE Builders Center

www.acehardware.ph

IN THIS ISSUE
■ ABC 5's price: 'Less than P5B' /B2
■ Pfizer slaps Unilab with patent suit /B6

Editor Raul G. Marcelo ■ Assistant Editor Connie S. Martinez

BUSINESS

Gov't awards 87 renewable energy contracts

P90B in investments to generate 4,042 MW

By Amy S. Roxas

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) ON FRIDAY AWARDED 87 service contracts to 18 companies for the development of renewable energy sources, with investments expected to reach P90.4 billion.

At the signing ceremonies presiding Energy Secretary Angelo T. Reyes said the contracts involved five conversions of existing service contracts and agreements to geothermal and 17 on hydropower into renewable energy contracts.

Nine renewable energy projects completed the remaining 63 contracts that were awarded.

Documents from the DOE showed that the approved projects were expected to generate a total of 1,012 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

The DOE awarded new service contracts for wind power projects to Trans-Asia Renewable Energy Corp.; Consolidated Energy Corp.; Alternergy Philippine Holdings Corp. and DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute.

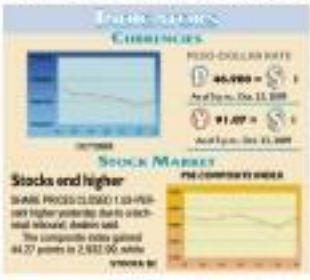
Service contracts for geothermal and ocean power projects were awarded to AP Renewables Inc. and Deep Ocean Waste Philippines Inc., respectively, while biomass contracts were granted to Lucky 9591 Inter-national Inc. and Unison Biogen Corp.

Hydropower contracts were also conferred to Mindanao Energy Systems Inc., First Gen Hydro Power Corp., Cotabato Pulp Energy Corp., AV Garcia Power Systems Corp., Benguet Electric Cooperative Inc. and PNOC-Renewables Corp.

The DOE also renewed existing agreements of Energy Development Corp. (for geothermal resources) and Hedcor Inc., First Gen Bukidnon Power Corp. and Luzon Hydro Corp. (hydropower) into renewable energy contracts.

Meanwhile, conversion from existing geothermal agreements with foreign contractor Chevron Geothermal Philippines Holdings Inc. were also terminated and ex-

BUSINESS B2



First Pacific in talks to acquire remaining Lopez stake in Meralco

By Dexter L. Lusas

BUSINESSMAN MANUEL PANGILINAN yesterday said his group was in discussions with the Lopez family to acquire its remaining stake in Manila Electric Co., a move that could possibly put a definitive end to the boardroom battle in the country's biggest power distributor.

"We are talking to Oscar [Lopez], because they are the ones who own the shares, not Manuel [Lopez Jr.]," he told reporters in an interview in Makati City.

Through its First Philippine Holdings Corp. and Beacon Holdings Corp. units, the Lopez family continues to control a crucial 33.4-percent stake in Meralco. The First Pacific group holds the right of first refusal for this remaining Lopez block.

The stake could ensure the hold of the Pangilinan-led First Pacific Co. Ltd. in the power distributor, as oldest Lopez son Miguel Corp. president Ramon Ang, ex-ousted ahead of him as the company's head.

"We expect the talks to be concluded in the next few weeks," added Pangilinan, who is also chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Pangilinan is widely believed to be allied with family patriarch Oscar Lopez, while Ang is allied with Manolo Lopez who, until recently led the branch of the family responsible for running Meralco.

The PLDT chief did not disclose additional details about the deal, but said that he was interested to acquire the entire 33.4 percent block and not just a portion of it as initially speculated by the stock market.

On the Philippine Stock Exchange, Meralco shares closed yesterday at P283, up slightly from the previous day's closing of P281.

The company's stock had dipped to P148 in September after peaking at P302.50 in July, but recently shot back up to a high of P318 after rumors of a fresh bidding war between Pangilinan and Ang for the Lopez stake surfaced.

First Pacific owns 16.7 percent of Meralco through PLDT and Metro Pacific Investments Corp.

Lopez-controlled firms First Philippine Holdings and Beacon are expected to benefit most from Meralco's stock price appreciation.

ABC 5's price: 'Less than P5B'

THE PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE Telephone Co. group led by Manuel Pangilinan will shell out "less than P5 billion" to acquire three-fourths of third-ranked broadcaster ABC 5 from the group of tycoon "Tony Boy" Cojuangco.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Pangilinan declined to give exact figures, citing confidentiality arrangements with the selling party, but added that the transaction value was "more than P4 billion."

That price range approximates the amount which Cojuangco paid to acquire Associated Broadcasting Corp. from businessman Eduardo "Dan Jr." Ongpin.

Last Wednesday, it was disclosed that the PLDT group had ventured into the television broadcasting business with a deal to take over a 75 percent stake in ABC Development Corp., owner and operator of ABC Channel 5.

The acquisition will be made through MediaQuest Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, the telecommunication giant's retirement fund.

MediaQuest also entered into an agreement to acquire Primedia Inc., a local corporation engaged in developing programming content for television and marketing of airtime, specifically for ABC 5.

Primedia is backed by Media Prima Berhad, a leading media investment group in Malaysia with interests in television, radio, print and content creation.

ABC 5 is controlled by a consortium led by Cojuangco and holding company Old Archers.

The Primedia acquisition is expected to be completed within this month, according to MediaQuest director Ray Espinosa.

Pangilinan has long been interested in entering the broadcasting industry, coming close to sealing a deal by the acquisition of EMA Network Inc. earlier in the decade, and more recently unsuccessful bidder with IBC 13.

"MediaQuest's investments in ABC 5 and Primedia are in line with its strategy of developing media, content and production resources to complement its other media assets and platforms such as Cignal, a direct-to-home satellite service launched in July this year," Media-Quest said in a statement issued Wednesday.

Over the past year, the statement said ABC 5 has significantly improved its viewership ratings and has established its position as a "strong number three" in the Philippine television industry. Beatrice L. Lucas

aurelKonzept
WAREHOUSE CLEARANCE SALE!
Sale Price
Php 408.00/m2 - Php 808.00/m2

Gov't awards 87 . . .

From page B1

deemed to the Office of the President for approval.

"Just last month, the DOE awarded seven contracts to six renewable energy project developers, with investments expected to reach close to $1 billion. These projects are expected to generate 179 MW.

As for the biofuels sector, Ginlo Hafalla has been granted certificate of registration with notice to proceed for its biodiesel project in Magallanes, Cavite.

Cavite Biofuels' capacity is expected to bring the country's total annual biodiesel capacity to 73.3 million liters once its ethanol production facility becomes operational.

San Carlos Bioenergy Inc. was the first to be registered under the Renewable Energy Law, while Chemrez Technologies Inc., Golden Aster Oil International Inc. and Leyte Agri Corp. were issued full accreditation/interim

Euromoney's
"Best Insurer in the Philippines"
continues to aim for excellence

After being cited as Euromoney's 2009 Best Insurer in the Philippines, it was "business as usual" for Pioneer Insurance & Surety Corporation, one of the country's top non-life insurance companies. The "usual" though, for Pioneer Insurance is definitely out of the ordinary, as the standard for the team is to constantly aim for higher levels of excellence. Having also been cited by the magazine as Best Insurer for Innovation and Best for Claims Resolution, the team has been challenged to not only maintain but surpass the expectations of its varied client base.

In the survey, conducted by the leading journal for international financial markets, 400 risk managers, treasurers and chief financial officers were asked to rank the best insurers around the world. Pioneer Insurance topped the survey as Best Insurer for the Philippines, joining 58 other Best Insurer awardees from other countries. "In an increasingly challenging financial environment, the winners of the 2009 Euromoney Insurance Awards are those that exhibited the ability to innovate, respond to the increasingly complex demands of their clients, and make the best use of the inherent strengths of their organization. Through the insurance survey, the market has recognized the achievements of these institutions in the face of difficult market conditions, which is why the awards are so richly deserved", said Neil Osborn, publisher of Euromoney.

"Our clients have always expressed their appreciation for our ability to resolve claims and for the way we respond to their needs," states Pioneer Insurance President and CEO David Coyiuliat. "The Best Insurer citation is an assurance that we are serving our clients well." He likewise sees the recognition as a reminder, "to be constantly aware of how we can serve our clients even better in a challenging environment."

Pioneer Insurance has been serving the Filipino for over half a century. This experience, coupled with the drive to be consistently among the top five non-life insurers in the country, makes Pioneer a respected name in the industry. With Euromoney naming it "Best Insurer in the Philippines 2009", the Pioneer team proudly forges ahead and looks forward to being the industry benchmark for excellence year after year.

Stocks end higher

From page B1

the all-shares index added 1.32 percent to 1,818.03 points.

A total of 1.03 billion shares worth P1.4 billion changed hands with 71 gainers against 32 losers. PSEi-eight other issues ended unchanged.

The local currency ended at 47.343 to the dollar.

"This is mainly a rebound effect, there are good stocks, needs push-up," Asian Lemi of Campos, Lanuza and Co. told Dow Jones Newswires.

Top-traded PLDT gained 1.86 percent to P2,600, while SM Investments Corp. rose 4.35 percent to P44, while JG Summit Holdings ended unchanged at P30.

AFP

Pfizer slaps Unilab with patent suit

By Abigail L. Ho

Foreign company stresses it still holds rights to contested drug

SEEKING TO PROTECT ITS PATENT for its popular anti-cholesterol drug Lipitor, pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. has filed a patent infringement case against local competitor United Laboratories Inc.

Pfizer public affairs director Ruben Parental said the case, now pending with the Makati Regional Trial Court, sought to ensure "a level playing field and fair competition," as Unilab was already selling a generic version of Lipitor even if the Philippine patent for the drug remained in force.

"I just want to reiterate that Lipitor's patent is currently in force in the Philippines and expires only in 2012. We only seek a level playing field and fair competition in the market, and we would like due regard for the law and its processes in regard to (intellectual property rights) protection in the country," the said reporters.

Unilab started selling dupinan, the generic version of Lipitor, this month.

Parental said Pfizer could not understand why Unilab would do that since the local pharmaceutical firm knew that the patent for Atorvastatin, the compound being marketed under the Lipitor brand, was still valid.

Unilab had actually filed a patent invalidation case with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines for Pfizer's atorvastatin, the original patent for which was held by Warner Lambert, a company that Pfizer bought in 2000.

"We're trying to understand the basis for the invalidation of the patent. The main fact that (Unilab) filed a case means that they recognize that there is an existing patent," she said. "As far as we're concerned, we're still under patent, so why are they already selling a generic version (of Lipitor)?"

Right now, the said Pfizer just "assured" "to let the court deal with it."

In a separate interview, Unilab corporate vice president Ito Appel services Jose Mendiola said the company was "still subject to challenge."

"They don't have a very strong case," he said, referring to Pfizer's patent infringement filing. "Patents are still subject to challenge, and there's no court order, no temporary restraining order) that will prevent us or anybody from selling. Pfizer's claim has no legal basis at all."

But Parental said Pfizer merely wanted to ensure that its intellectual property, backed by years of research and development and millions in investments dollars, remained protected.

"It's not that we don't welcome generics. We invest up to $1 billion and spend up to 15 years just to develop and test our drug. When you invent that much, you also want to make sure you're protected," she said.

Loans taken out to boost recovery may have gov't seal

By Bernard W. Dominguez

THE GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO GUARantee loans that will be taken out to fund rehabilitation and reconstruction projects, Finance Secretary Margarito B. Teves said yesterday.

At the same time, the government, with the help of the private sector, may tap other sources to raise the needed cash to help the country recover from the damage of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and "Pepeng," Teves added.

"We can (guarantee) loans for relief activities and concessional loans for early recovery and rehabilitation," the finance chief said.

"There is high probability that guarantee will be given to projects that the Neda (National Economic and Development Authority) approves, but there can be some for unsolicited proposals," he added.

Teves disclosed to say how much funds were needed for reconstruction. All he said was that Makati Rizal's post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA) would be sometime in November.

"There is no definite figure on that, but the latest estimate on the damage is P30 billion," he said.

Some P11 billion were reported lost to Ondoy and P19 billion to Pepeng. Agricultural losses were estimated at P20 billion, while infrastructure damage were said to hit P10 billion.

Also, Teves said the newly formed Public-Private Reconstruction Commission—of which he is a member—was set to hold an informal discussion with international donors on Nov. 7.

Teves said, relief efforts would continue in the next three months, while early recovery could take up another three months.

Thrift banks fear rise of soured loans

THE COUNTRY'S THRIFT BANKING SECtor expects soured loans to increase, saying that borrowers from devastated areas by two recent calamities may have difficulty paying off their debts.

Still, the Chamber of Thrift Banks (CTB) said the rise in nonperforming loans (NPL) would only be minimal.

According to CTB president Bernard Garcia III, the average nonperforming loans ratio of thrift banks stood at around 7 percent prior to the visit of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng." He said the figure could increase, but would not likely hit the double-digit level.

So far, Garcia said, banks were experiencing only a slight increase in their NPLs.

"We are seeing a slight increase in the NPL ratio, but we don't see it reaching 10 percent. We are not experiencing the worst-case scenario," Garcia said reporters following the annual meeting of the CTB held recently at Manila's Oriental Hotel in Makati City.

NPL ratio is the proportion of soured loans to the total loan portfolio of banks. Loans are considered to be non-when they go unpaid at least 30 days upon maturity.

"Many bank borrowers affected by the calamities were able to recover from the devastation, and their incomes were not substantially disrupted," Garcia added.

Garcia said the calamities affected bank lending both positively and negatively. He said credit card loans for purchase of appliances and furniture rose. This would weaken car growth in credit card lending, he said.

On the other hand, spending for things like dining and entertainment is expected to be cut as families affected by the calamities need to focus only on essential goods and services.

"So, the positive and negative impacts of the calamities as far as lending is concerned would simply be offsetting themselves," Garcia said.

Meanwhile, Pilbank expects total loan portfolio to hit a double-digit growth this year. Garcia, who is also president of Pilbank, said the growth in lending would be boosted by increase in demand for consumer loans rather than corporate loans. Michelle U. Remo

Prime Media stock soars on MVP's TV-5 deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SHARE PRICE OF PRIME MEdia Holdings Inc. soared on news that the listed firm would be used by the group of Manuel V. Pangilinan as the backdoor listing vehicle for ABC Development Corp., the owner and operator of ABC Channel 5 (TV-5).

Prime Media's stock price increased by 333 percent in just two days, or since MediaQuest Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of the telecommunications giant's investment fund PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, announced a deal to acquire a 75-per-cent stake in TV-5.

Yesterday, Prime Media closed at P1.70 per share, up by 49.15 percent from Thursday's close.

Prime Media has a market capitalization of about P486.38 (million) based on yesterday's closing.

Dealers said Prime Media, which is 82-percent owned by the Pangilinan-led Metro Pacific group, could see speculation that TV-5 would be folded into the dormant company.

Prime Media was originally incorporated as Philtan Properties Corp. of the Philippines. It became PDCP Development Bank Inc. when the Metro Pacific group had bought investments in the Philippines Luxe, it was known as First e-Bank Corp., which was sold to tycoon Henry Sy's Banco de Oro Unibank in 2002.

The company acquired its current name in 2003, which it was turned into a holding company for media investments after the banking business was sold to Banco de Oro.

The group has been cleaning up Prime Media's balance sheet over the last few years "to pave the way for the entry of a new investor who will be willing to inject its business or assets into the company."

When the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. group announced that it would break into the television broadcasting business, dealers expected Metro Pacific to sell the shell company to the PLDT group.

Pangilinan's group agreed to buy ABC-5 from a consortium led by Antonio Cojuangco and holding interests the Ancheta, which bought controlling stake in the company in 2003.

Television censors is said to be the last existing piece in the "convergence" strategy of the PLDT group. MediaQuest is also the major media and content partner for PLDT and its flagship wireless phone provider Smart Communications.

Distributors may get ERC nod to undertake open access

By Amy R. Remo

THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMmission may allow distribution utilities to implement the Power Supply Option Program (PSOP) as soon as one of the two preconditions has been met.

In a decision, ERC said the PSOP would commence 90 days after the completion of rollout the following conditions: The transfer of operation of the government-owned Cobrex power facility to a private generation company, or the privatization of at least 70 percent of the generating assets of National Power Corp. in Luzon and Visayas.

PSOP is a modified version of the interim open access that will allow Luzon bulk power users to choose their own electricity suppliers.

ERC had said this was different from the full-fledged retail competition and open access.

According to the ERC, 72.39 percent of the aggregate capacity in Luzon and Visayas had successfully been bidded out as of August 2009. However, only 36.99 percent had been fully paid and turned over to the new owners.

Meanwhile, DMCI Holdings had submitted the highest bid for the 600-megawatt Caliraya - Botocan - Kalayaan (Cabeka) power plant in Batangas, tendering an offer of $98.1.7 million. The facility, however, has yet to be turned over by the government to its new owners.

"The sale of the Cabeka power facility would result in the availability of a substantial amount of unencumbered capacity," ERC said.

Peso seen to be better off weak for OFWs' sake

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY AT THE moment will be better off with a weaker peso as depreciation of the local currency will help encourage spending among dependents of overseas Filipino workers.

According to Victor Abola, senior economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific, the tougher Screening Filipinos should also help in lowering the peso's exchange rate if it wanted to further boost consumption.

While depreciation of the peso usually accompanies the increase in prices of commodities, the impact of a weakening local currency on inflation can be minimal, Abola said. Because of this, the BSP can allow the peso to depreciate further and still keep inflation within official targets.

The government expects inflation to range between 2.5 and 4.5 percent this year. For 2010, inflation is seen to range between 3.5 and 5.5 percent.

Latest government data showed that average inflation for the first nine months of the year stood at 3.4 percent.

"Depreciation of the peso only has a small impact on inflation. Even estimates by the BSP confirmed this. For every 10-percent peso depreciation, inflation increases by only 0.2 percent," Abola said.

He said the economy needed a weaker peso to increase the purchasing power of millions of Filipinos partly or fully dependent on remittances.

Personal consumption accounts for about 70 percent of the country's economy, Abola noted.

The peso weakened to the $7.to-a-dollar territory this week after hitting the 46.81 mark the previous week. Market traders said the BSP would intervene in the market if the peso were to post sharp, sudden losses.

Sharp volatility of the currency makes it difficult for businessmen, especially those engaged in exports and imports, and even consumers dependent on exchange rate movements to plan their budgets.

But Abola said that, in the meantime, a weaker peso should be allowed. The peso should depreciate to a level that runs into current inflation targets.

Federal Land puts Zen living on a grand scale

SCIENCE/HEALTH
Editor Cesar D. Mangiliwang

LISA Cojuangco-Cruz with husband Dr. Jose Nicolas Cruz, son Santi and daughter Sophia

PATIENT EMPOWERMENT

Lupus project expands Luisa's wings

By Tess R. Salazar

SHE LOOKS STRAIGHT into your eye and asks you about your name for close. She gets immediately to her nursing chores to the kindest. She may even prepare the dish herself. Then, without missing a beat, she strides back and resumes entertaining her 30-or-so other patients.

If you were a guest at her household, you would be happy to see all her hospitality in action. She's one of the frequent get-togethers with her family and friends—June the nurses and interns—you wouldn't have an inkling that Luisa "Lisa" Cojuangco Cruz (San Miguel Corp. bigwig Danding Cojuangco's youngest daughter) has been a lupus sufferer for 12 years.

Lisa wears her disease like an unwanted guest. She didn't invite it in, but now that it has gate-crashed into her life, she finds with it in her own terms.

She has thrown everything at it, spending as much as P100,000 a month to "throw the enemy" and keep it locked up in the basement, so to speak.

But her lupus is a strong, feisty enemy (until, and sometimes it breaks loose and wreaks havoc with her system. Lisa's husband, cardiologist Nick Cruz, assures that when this happens, he's with a counselor by lupus "flares."

Lisa's household, however, is prepared for just those occasions. Her precautions series—a girl and a boy named Sophia and Santi, respectively—are aware of their mother's condition, and they frequently hug her and assure her she would be all right.

That isn't unlike what Lisa has been doing, more or less, for other lupus patients. She had founded the Lupus Inspired Advocacy project (Lisa) in January 2005 with the "Friends of Lupus" and the Rheumatology Educational Trust Foundation Inc. Lisa is a support group for lupus patients and their families. It also seeks to educate Filipinos about lupus, support research efforts, improve national awareness of its complications and build a strong support network among local and regional lupus patient support groups.

Still mysterious

Lupus, an autoimmune disease, is still largely a mysterious affliction. It has no cure, and treatments only keeps the various symptoms in check.

Lisa had recently conducted a research project aimed at finding out the economic burden of Filipino lupus sufferers. Sampling a population with an average age of 31 and its lupus patients having had the disease for an average of five to six years, the study discovered that a majority of the respondents fall in the low- to middle-earned combined household incomes in a range of P60,000 to P480,000. The study went on to conclude that 10.54 percent of the population have spent more than 50 percent of their budget for lupus treatment, translating to around P7,200 to P38,400 per month.

Most serious form

Lisa's lupus is particularly nasty. SLE, or systemic lupus erythematosus, is the most severe form of the disease since it can potentially affect many parts of the body, such as the joints, skin, kidneys, lungs, heart and the brain.

SLE's most common victims are women of child-bearing age (almost 90 percent of SLE cases). But it can also occur in children, males and the elderly.

Despite some reservations, Lisa does attend normally the needle-apply exhibit every time the gown-undoes, though.

As an autoimmune disease, lupus "feeds" the body's immune system into attacking itself. This becomes dangerous when the attack involves the kidneys, brain, heart and the blood elements. Patients with severe lupus sometimes die from kidney failure or infection. Lupus patients are prone to infections because of not only their abnormal immune systems but also the immunosuppressing properties of the drugs patients take to control the disease.

But Lisa's lupus has fueled more her desire not to surrender to the disease. A self-confessed former "spoiled brat" who wouldn't take no for an answer (pursuer Degree Dominguez's words) from her "Kimmy", Lisa has channeled all this aggressive energy to living a life dedicated to fighting her disease and motivating other patients to fight theirs as well.

"Her strong personality is pushing the Philippine lupus advocacy project to its active state," says Lisa's physician Sandra V. Navarro. "But, in turn, makes the research of lupus a "very vibrant" endeavor to get into, she adds.

Navarro is an associate professor of medicine (rheumatology and clinical immunology) at the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. She is currently the principal investigator and member of the steering committee in phase 3 of the BLISS-52 study (the first of two Phase 3 trials for systemic lupus). A drug is being developed by Glaxo SmithKline and Human Genome Sciences for "patients with autologously active systemic lupus erythematosus").

National agenda vs lupus

The Lisa project recently held a small press-conference at Cruz's New Manila house. It is now helping he realize a series of agenda against lupus, especially in the research and education field.

GSK's interest in lupus, for its part, stemmed from the positive results of phase 3 of its project with Human Genome Sciences for Benlysta in the treatment of SLE.

Navarro disclosed that, for the first time in 50 years, an investigational human monoclonal antibody drug for lupus patients had showed potential. IGSK claims, further, that this is the first for lupus to reach this advanced stage of clinical development and achieve positive results, conducted on the large randomized placebo-controlled clinical trial ever completed for SLE patients.)

Lisa was diagnosed with SLE in 1997, after suffering butterfly-shaped rashes appearing on her face. Seeking a 75-percent chance of being disabled by lupus, Lisa wanted no time taking all her resources and her energies to learning more about the disease.

That is why she will never put off her inner rebel can be done now.

Next: before you leave it, your food is served just the way you asked for it.

The sweet escape from diabetes

MEDICAL FILES
Rafael Castillo, M.D.

WE WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE the staff of DiabetEASE magazine, headed by its editor Dr. Jay C. Fernandez, in on the 4th anniversary of this very informative magazine. The staff and writers have organized a diabetes public awareness campaign titled "The Sweet Escape" on Oct. 29 and 31 at the Activity Center of Market! Market!

Local health experts are alarmed that if the current trend continues, we will be among the top 10 countries with the most number of diabetic patients. It is estimated that diagnosed diabetics in the country have exceeded three million and if you include those who have prediabetes, then the number may be as high as eight million.

Prediabetes or lesser diabetes are those who have borderline fasting blood sugar (FBS) levels, or those with normal fasting blood sugar levels but abnormal blood sugar levels after eating meals. Its a normal FBS does not rule out diabetes. One has to take the blood sugar levels one to two hours after eating, also called postprandial blood sugar levels.

If one has a strong family history of diabetes, overweight, has elevated triglyceride levels, has a history of (transient) elevation of the blood sugar levels during pregnancy, the chances of subsequently developing diabetes is high, so postprandial blood sugar screening and preventive measures to delay the onset of diabetes are required.

Fast-food culture

In why the imminent diabetes epidemic in the country and worldwide? Blame it on what Dorrian Augusto Llanojas and Ric Fernando—medical icons in the specialty of diabetes and endocrinology, call to the fast-food culture in the country and worldwide. Fast foods are convenient and quite affordable, but frequent indulgence in high-fat, deep-fried foods is hazardous for the health.

Add to the fast-food culture the convenience of modern technology where everything is via remote control and convenience so you don't have to walk to change TV channels, or pick up the telephone, or open gates, and you have a recipe for a sedentary population prone to diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Having diabetes makes bad news always, and one should make all efforts to prevent it by a healthy diet and exercise. "Diabetes mellitus is a devastating disease. It is one of the leading causes of blindness, kidney failure, and leg amputations around the world," says Dr. Fernandez, DiabetEASE editor in chief.

"Unfortunately, many Filipinos are ignorant of this disease. There may be a plethora of information regarding diabetes, but some are misleading and could be potentially harmful to many patients," she adds.

Advocacy

He salute the staff of DiabetEASE magazine for its advocacy to promote awareness diabetes education to all diabetics and those at risk of developing diabetes. When asked why the title of the magazine, Lucci Cortez, the magazine's managing editor, explains that it was envisioned to empower patients to know their disease so they would be in a position to prevent complications. That's why the tagline EASE is emphasized in the title of the magazine. "It's not good fortune to have diabetes, but it's also not the end of the world if one has diabetes," Lucci says.

One can live with diabetes with ease if one knows how to. "The magazine helps its readers apply the tried-and-tested measures to control high blood sugar levels and prevent the complications of diabetes," she adds.

Lucci also explains that "The Sweet Escape" is definitely not an ordinary diabetes event. "For one days, this event will make it's guests experience how fun having a healthy lifestyle can get," she says. Guests will be invited to Glutz Bar's free massage treatments, fitness activities, sampling of sugar-free goodies and blood sugar testing. The programs will also feature cooking demos of savory healthy dishes, lay forum with some of the country's top endocrinologists as resource persons, and other surprises.

The DiabetEASE magazine is indeed a helpful tool to escape the complications of diabetes and everyone interested to know more of the disease can experience "The Sweet Escape" on Oct. 29 and 31 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Program participants at 5 p.m. the special guests, renowned individuals and groups may register via e-mail at the betweenmag@gmail.com, or call 892-1722 loc. 136.

DiabetEASE magazine is published by PAGE Inc., which is also the publisher of Health & Lifestyle, Zen Health, Travel Plus, as well as Glossy magazines such as Hannah Montana, Tinker Bell and The World of Cars.

Cell phones cancel out clowns

DISCOVER
Marvin Sanidad

THE ABILITY TO CARRY ON A CONversation while moving steadily doesn't sound like much of a challenge for most people. But university researchers in the southwestern United States have discovered to find that talking on a cell phone while walking can be so distracting that the speaker fails to take sufficient notice of his or her surroundings. Taking the example a step further, this finding suggests that because it suggests people who talk on their cell phones while driving might be so preoccupied that they cause traffic hazards.

"If people experience so much difficulty performing the task of walking when on a cell phone just think of what this means when you toss the concept of driving safety," said Professor Washington University psychologist Ira Hyman, lead author of the study on the effects of walking with distractors that was published online Oct. 19 in the journal Applied Cognitive Psychology in a statement. "People should not drive while talking on a cell phone."

Walkers using cell phones

Hyman and his colleagues based their findings on observations of nearly 200 people walking along the main path in the university campus center either by themselves, with a conversational partner, while listening to an MP3 player or while talking to someone via a cell phone. They found that compared to the other walkers, the cell phone users meandered on the path, being less likely to walk in a straight line or acknowledge other people along the way.

A second experiment again involved observing people who fell in to one of the same four categories listed above, but this time the researchers added a new and unusual wizard to the mix: a man in a brightly colored clown suit riding a unicycle.

Hyman and his colleagues observed whether or not people noticed the clown as they passed by him. At the end of the path, they interviewed each person to ask if they'd seen anything odd while crossing, and to ultimately value that might be. While most of the people who'd either walked alone or in a pair, or while listening to music had seen the clown, only a quarter of the cell phone users said they saw him.

"Individuals in our study who did not report seeing the unicycling clown were generally surprised that they missed him," the researchers reported in their study "Unfortunately, when chewing a cue while talking on a cell phone, people may be unaware of what they are missing until it is too late."

Hyman said his team aren't the first to use based-on-mine visual cues to study the effect of distractions that lower a person's awareness of his or her surroundings. One of the best known examples is a 1999 study by researchers from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Harvard University. They used students, basketballs and a gorilla costume to demonstrate that inattentional blindness—a concept that is causing intensely an ever-rank (teaching ball movement) can make one oblivious to other visual cues (the presence of a gorilla). Incidentally, this study won its authors the 2004 Ig Nobel Award for Psychology.

Very distracting

That cell phones and other media delivery devices can be very distracting was also demonstrated in a study published in the Journal of Applied University professor Clifford Nass and his colleagues. The California-based team studied many media multitasker people who said they regularly follow multiple threads of conversation on various media forms such as a TV show, Internet, e-mail, online text-text messaging and phone conversations.

After a series of experiments, the researchers found that heavy media multitaskers actually had trouble sifting through all the clues to focus on the important or relevant resources, which happened if they're able to switch as quickly and efficiently as those who identified themselves as low media multitaskers.

Nass and his colleagues are now looking at whether the inability to concentrate is limited to heavy media multitaskers, or if this is a learned behavior that could be harmful to the brain in the long term.

E-mail the author at msanidad@inquirer.com.

DR. Jay Fernandez, DiabetEASE editor in chief

DiabetEASE magazine, making life easier for diabetics

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangaoang

Cleanup lessons from muddy water

THREE WEEKS AGO THE RIVER showed us how its life has been disturbed when it climbed into our home to reclaim the riverside that was his.

Water damage would have probably been easier to deal with had it not come with mud, but we had a flood of silt that left mud all over our floors, decks and garden. We also had mud inside our clothes, appliances and on everything else that was unfortunately reached by the floodwaters.

I learned a few things about dealing with muddy floodwater and I randomly share them with you:

• Clean up while everything is wet. Don't wait for the mud to dry up as it makes it doubly difficult to remove mud. Removing it will mar floor finishes and tile, or hard surfaces increases the risk of scratching or scraping, inevitably damaging your finishes.

• Soft furnishing like upholstery, carpets and other textured material are going to soak up the mud and eventually stain. It's important to immediately soak these and let mud loosen up. Even upholstery that are for dry cleaning can usually withstand washing with gentle soap.

• Any wood-based material will swell. Solid wood furniture will warp and expand. Before doing any repairs, let the wood dry properly. Sharing all excess edges while the timber is swollen will leave you with large gaps and openings when the excess moisture is finally gone.

• Plywood and fiberboard (MDF or MDP) will swell even more and will be almost irreparable. But if your cabinetry is finished with a good lacquer or "duco" finish, then you're in luck! Lacquer will swell off the wood and it will be as good as new after it dries up.

• Check the mechanisms of your window blinds or roller shades. They may seem to be operating well but if floodwater got to them, they will eventually rust or corrode. Best to have your supplier open them up for cleaning and oiling.

• Your door hardware will have to be checked. Flush the openings with clean water then try moving the knobs, levers and locksets around. Better yet, have them opened up and cleaned to remove any excess moisture that can eventually lead to corrosion.

• Open up baseboards and flush down gaps between built-in items and walls. Mud finds its way into everything.

• After washing down everything, dry up properly and thoroughly. Use electric fans, industrial blowers or dehumidifiers. Excess moisture can do further damage on the long term.

In my attempt to decrease the risk of water damage, I've happily discovered a few new insecticide for not only flood prone areas but for wet areas as well. More on that next week!

Send your comments to DES@inq7.ph.

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Borromeo Asuncion

6 techniques that soften nature's impact

By Tess R. Salazar

TWO DOWN, ONE more coming up. As a spate of supertyphoons lash out at the country, property developers and builders share the key conservation steps they feel have helped their projects survive nature's onslaught.

1 Build around the worst scenario. Grace Ortuza, vice president for marketing and design of Filinvest Properties, developer of affordable medium-rise residential buildings, discloses that before it ventures out its construction plans, the company researches on the site's history and plans around the highest recorded flood level of the area. The technique has worked perfectly, so far, as none of the existing Filinvest developments have been affected by typhoons "Ondoy" or "Pepeng."

For future projects, Ortuza says Filinvest will even more scrutinize flood-prone sites. "In light of the public's exposure to what areas were flooded (and still are), we plan to gauge the public's reaction in terms of marketability of certain sites we are eyeing. We plan to do this through qualitative and quantitative studies."

2 Make sure the building systems and materials are suited to a typhoon-prone climate. Ortuza disclosed that Filinvest's building technologies "of lean rigid, cast-in-place, load-bearing structures make its condominiums more suitable than conventionally constructed buildings."

Alveo Land, for its part, stresses that for its high-rises, building façades are designed based on the results of a wind tunnel test which simulates the force behavior of natural elements onto the exterior wall and window system. Also normally done by other local developers, this is a self-imposed procedure that Alveo has adopted to ensure structural guarantee and integrity.

3 Raise the ground levels. Filinvest, despite having some of its existing project sites affected by the recent typhoons, is still planning to raise the ground floor levels in some of its newer projects.

4 Partner with Phivolcs for earthquake preparedness. Filinvest said that since 2006 it has partnered with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs). Through the property managers, Filinvest residents and unit owners are periodically updated on matters before ground.

5 Fire is always a threat, so 24/7 protection against it is imperative. Alveo Land explains that it uses foolproof fire protection for all the cars materials it chooses. Furthermore, all Fire Detection and Alarm System (FDAS) conducts in all Alveo developments are Underwriters Laboratory Inc.-compliant. ULI is a US-based third-party product safety testing and certification organization.

Filinvest's till drafts in all three condominium developments are also pressurized during fires, making it easier and safer for firefighters to proceed to the affected areas to put out fire but and evacuate residents, since smoke will not enter the elevators.

6 Easy in, easy out. Developers note that when a disaster does strike, many of the casualties come from those trapped inside buildings and houses. Thus, aside from strictly following building principles and guidelines, Alveo, for example, claims to also construct walls/ window during the planning stages to determine the ideal entry and exit points to the location. This ensures smooth and effortless vehicular ingress and egress and maximize the accessibility interiors of its residents.

Making walls, ceilings that last longer

By Charles F. Bahan

IN FINISHING A CONCRETE WALL or ceiling, the usual procedure is to set up the base, apply the primers, then semi-skim, followed by pure cement—to smoothen the surface—and afterward, the base paint. When everything has dried out, that's the only time when one will be able to apply the finishing coat.

Miss one step or apply one improperly and the result would soon end up seeing some "bubbling" or cracking on the wall as well as peeling paints.

Recently, one company developed a product that promises not only to eliminate these unsightly problems but also shorten the process of finishing a concrete surface.

StoCrete informed that StoCrete Skim Coat contains binder, aggregates like fine silica sand or calcium carbonate and various additives that could smoothen uneven or rough surfaces and ensure color consistency, which eliminates the need to use paint cement for smoothening surface or corners.

Since the product could also block moisture from penetrating the surface, StoCrete Skim Coat also eliminates the need to use a waterproofer.

Explained StoCrete: The concrete usually has moisture or has the ability to easily absorb moisture, which is why a waterproofer is often required. StoCrete Skim Coat is different. It ensures that water will not penetrate the surface once one could make minimize—the proper application or use of wrong amount would allow moisture to leak or seep out of the concrete and ruin the paint as well as the look of the already finished wall or ceiling.

StoCrete said their product is often regarded as "green" because StoCrete Skim Coat shortens construction time (in finishing a surface) and can cost by as much as 30 percent.

More importantly, using the product eliminates the need for the homeowner to repair restrictions.

The company added that sustainable green building not only means using responsibly produced materials but also using techniques that minimizes the environmental impact of a building throughout its lifetime.

"The less waste delivered to landfills because of unscheduled repair, the better for our already fragile environment," the 12-year-old construction materials company said.

THE COLUMBIA GARDEN RESIDENCES

2bU LIFESTYLE
Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
Associate Editor Pure Pastor

So you want to be a fashion blogger...

6 steps to launch you on the Internet style spotlight

CHECK out Jara Aldridge's shoe closet via her blog.

By Rosanna Aranas
Correspondent

NOWADAYS, MANY FASHION-istas have set aside their flunkies on fashion magazines (at least until the next issue comes out!) and, instead, are putting themselves before their computers to draw inspiration from a new breed of fashion leader—the style blogger.

Many well-known bloggers have made waves in the blogosphere with their unique and creative sense of style. Take 13-year-old Tavi of Style Rookie fame. Her popularity has catapulted her to the cover of Pop magazine; she's been able to score front row seats to a few shows (including Marc Jacobs') during New York Fashion Week.

Texas-based Jara Aldridge of Sea of Shoes found herself designing a collection for Urban Outfitters, while Bubbie Tsang's Bunz Barely has had countless magazine features, including one for Vogue Paris.

Million student Bella Dorias of Xiaolu's Closet hit it big time when she logged a web campaign for Abercrombie Apparel. Even Manila's Beyonboy has had a Marc Jacobs bag named after him!

Tavi, Pixani, and their many fans have jump-started their popularity through their personal blogs, but there are other blogs

Phil and James do 'Gossip Girl'

Like Chuck and Nate? Yes and no

By Carmenita Sison
Contributor
De La Salle University

IT WAS A LITTLE BEFORE 2 p.m. when I first saw Phil and James. I pushed out to see who was at the door only to find two faces grinning back at me. I smiled in myself, it was indeed a perfect match—for the shoot.

They walked in, a football rush in hand, nonchalant that they made the whole room appear smaller compared to their overpowering presence.

They have been described as good-looking and talented. But what really sets these two brothers apart from their batch of eye-candy guys is that they never fail to surprise you. You can never seem to get enough of them. One look and you're hooked. Just like the Upper East Side men of Gossip Girl.

So it was easy to see why this pictorial concept was chosen for them, and it was obvious who was to play which characters. Phil was to take the lead as Chuck Bass and James, Nate Archibald.

When does it take to play Chuck? I would say a beguiling stare, rightful bravado, and effusing charisma, admits Phil definitely him. He says, "Like Chuck, I want to venture into business. I enjoy making business plans and everything. Also, I think his style is very classy. Although he uses very dandy icons for's cuffed shirts and he's more Phil Tower, which is more fitted to my style. I like to be presentable in that sort of way. I think we've got a lot of things in common but I've yet to get my own yacht."

With a playful laugh he adds, "But I'm gonna be more successful."

At a young age, he has accomplished stuff you can't really scoff at. He talks about his upcoming football clinic with passion and patriotism—very Chuck-like: "I've done the football, I've tried singing, I've done a bit of modeling. Now, I'll have my own football clinic. It won't be a day of leisure running. I want everyone to know that football is fun and I want to promote and improve football in the Philippines. Taking my title to Chelsea, I want to show people that if they're good enough here, they can be good enough abroad."

He is also the brand ambassador of High Sierra. With the recycled backpack brand, he still have the Phil Younghusband's Football Academy Series, his line of backpacks, available in leading department stores nationwide and in specialty shops such as Bruntsch, Travel Club and R.O.X. Talk about being legendary or, as Phil calls it, "bedyo."

James, not to be outdone by his brother, is also very much like his charismic brute, sizzle the countless hookups. Adventurous and laidback, he says, "My brother and I love a challenge. We find that's what makes us feel alive. I want to be more fearless. Carpe diem."

Though he can already add winning in "Shall We Dance" as a cap to his feather, James adds, "I want to do more challenging things like dancing and cooking a proper meal."

They admit they compare with each other, "in terms, even in Parliament." True to each of their characters, they are also the best of friends. "We're very close. They're (Chuck and Nate) not so close these days but in the early seasons they were and I think that's more representative of James and me. We stick up for each other. We talk to each other. We're more than just of Chuck and Nate. But we don't mind such other's girlfriends," Phil says.

As the show is called Gossip Girl, Phil and James give their take on gossip. "I think the best way is just to laugh about it. Yes always get both bad criticisms and good criticisms. No matter where you go, if there are more than one people, there will be gossip. Some things are embarrassed and misrepresented. But I think that's part of life. The good thing about life is that there are different views from different people. So most of the time, we just laugh about it."

James adds, "If anything, it encourages us to do better. It motivates us."

A breath of fresh air is how I would describe Phil and James. In this day and age, it is hard to find talent coupled with substance. It is even harder to find those who can set a good standard for others.

Phil, who takes pride in everything he does, says, "I still want to carry on doing the boxing, the rugging but I also want to concentrate on having my own business. Because football isn't popular here, that means I have a goal. I want to be an example and make it grow. I want people to know more about it because all my life has been football and I want to give back."

He adds, "I want an identity. I want people to know me for achieving something good."

As the curtain closes and the role playing comes to an end, still in character, both share the materials they live by. Like the adventurous Nate, James shares, "Don't be afraid to have a go at something. Be fearless." Phil quotes Benjamin Franklin, "He that falls in love with himself will have no rivals." Very much like Chuck Bass and Nate Archibald, but still every bit the real Phil and James.

By Pam Pascua

GOSSIP GIRL IS BACK and fans couldn't be happier.

Sure, there are some strange things about this season. The girls—with the exception of Blair—are just getting on a lot of people's nerves. Jenny's on-a-mission-ing, Jenny looks like Courtney Love, Dorota is a pesky investigator that just wouldn't die and Vanessa's fashionably breathless. Even parents/friends in a day likewise so pseudo-deadly again in just a single scene.

But we have good reasons to rejoice—because the boys of Gossip Girl are back seasons.

And while they don't always make the right choices and occasionally fall flat on their faces, we can't deny it—the Gossip Girl boys are never eye candy.

This week, 2KU wondermen Phil and James Younghusband—both dandy Girl fans—have met on the creative Gossip Girl boys, Chuck and Nate.

Our 'Gossip boys'

Phil Younghusband: Chuck Bass, 22
international footballer and celebrity endorser

Currently here with The Philip Younghusband Football Academy which he put up to promote football awareness in the Philippines, Phil trained at the Chelsea Football Academy in London and with the PFF's Elite project, which aims to provide football scouts and training. "It promotes the awareness, grassroots programs and home of the sport in the Philippines. Every participant will learn the importance of hard work, healthy living, teamwork and self-confidence and the importance of fair-

HATE THE GREAT James says he dislikes an Archibald.

James Younghusband Nate Archbold, 23, footballer and model

Currently busy with: Modeling and his brother's football academy "I am busy helping out in my brother's football academy launching this month. I will be his head training coach or football manager".

Which Gossip Girl boy is the most like you: "Nate! Because he is better looking than Chuck." (laughs)

I am Nate because: "Nate and Chuck are best friends who protect and look out for each other. (Pat and I are like that."

Other TV picks: Breakfast Macaroni

Dingdong Dantes at National Book Store, SM Mall of Asia TODAY!

Dingdong Dantes will be at National Book Store, SM Mall of Asia today at 1:00 pm to resume his autograph signing tour of YES! Life Stories: Dingdong.

Every purchase of Dingdong's bookazine at National Book Store, SM Mall of Asia today will come with a Project Asia! study kit that you can donate to the victims of Ondoy.

My Moleskine Philippines at National Book Store

Discover the artworks of Asian-based artists through their Moleskine notebooks in unique interactive displays at the following National Book Store branches on these dates:

Oct. 23, 2009 - Jan. 22, 2010:
Bestsellers - Robinsons Galleria & National Book Store - Trinoma
Oct. 23, 2009 - Nov. 30, 2009:
National Book Store - Glorietta 5
Dec. 1, 2009 - January 22, 2010:
National Book Store - Powerplant Mall

Own a Moleskine now!
Get a 10% discount on all Moleskine items in select National Book Store branches from Oct. 23, 2009 - Jan. 22, 2010.

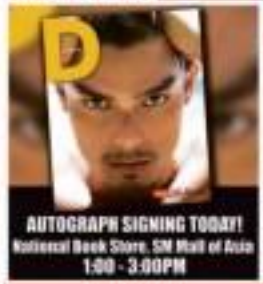
Follow National Book Store on Facebook, Friendster and Twitter for exclusive offers.

National Book Store

HALLOWINNERS!

Spook-tacular finds for a terrorific Halloween!

What else is new?



Follow National Book Store on Facebook, Friendster and Twitter for exclusive offers.

SPOTTED! during Paris Fashion Week

So you want to be a fashion blogger ...

From page C1

Amazing everyday savvy style ma by style hunter like Scott Schuman, the man behind The Sartorialist (thesartorialist.com...a blog so amazing it even has its own book) and Paris-based photographer Garance Dore.

The iconic Coco Chanel said as herself: "Fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live, what is happening."

Many street style sites like The Fast Horse, Glam Campus, Street Peeper celebrate the idea that inspiration can be found wherever you look. What has made street style blogs as such a fun phenomenon of the past decade is that they literally head to the street, allowing random individuals to have a taste of what it's like to be an online celebrity.

With sites such as Lookbook, Chictopia and Weartheube where practically anyone can upload his or her style diaries, it's obvious that fashion blogging is the next big thing.

The rise of fashion and street style blogs is the antithesis to the days when supermodels, celebrities and fashion insiders dictated the world's definitions of style. Now, new style icons have materialized with a single click of a mouse and a snapshot of one's everyday wardrobe.

So how does one become a fashion blogger?

Choose your niche

It's best to stick to an area of fashion you are truly passionate about. Are you aspiring to be the next street style photographer like Scott Schuman or the most outrageous style blogger since Susie Bubble? Love shoes or bags? Start a shoe blog a la Bfloresaria.com, or a bag all about bags like The Bag Snob.

Set up your blog

Blogspot.com and Wordpress.com are most popular platforms because they are easy to use and offer free hosting. Choose a name that's catchy and easy to remember. Remember, you would want your blog to reflect your sense of style, so use well-coloured photos and a tasteful, organized layout.

Start blogging

The first post is probably the hardest thing to write. Make an introductory post. Introduce yourself and what your blog is all about.

Take photos

People like pictures. Bring your camera everywhere and take photos. If you want your blog to focus on your personal style, try to take photos of your outfit at least every other day. Street style blog? Who knows which stylish individual you'll eventually bump into.

Keep your blog interesting

Try updating your blog every day. If that proves to be too daunting, an update at least every two days should suffice. Be creative with your content—hold contests, post DIYs and collages or even conduct interviews with other fellow bloggers. Also, read up on the latest fashion news, buy magazines, visit other blogs, attend events, go shopping. You can find content and get inspiration everywhere.

Promote your blog

Now that you have some content, its time to let others know about your blog. First, promote your blog on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter. Join fashion forums like The Fashion Spot and fashion blog networks like Cocosavvy.com and Indiepros. Also Fashion Bloggers. Add your blog to directories such as BlogCatalog and Technorati.

Most importantly, visit other blogs and leave comments on their posts. It's important to engage in conversation with other bloggers so you can build relationships with them.

HAVILA

ANGONO • TAYTAY • ANTIPOLO

Come home to a place where nature inspires art.

Havila, a 300-hectare township named after the mythical land by the river of Eden.

Through the years, Rizal province has earned the reputation as a hub of art and culture. It has hardworking artists and their families to live and thrive there. Now, you too can live amidst beauty that inspires.

Make your home in Alabang Hills in mystical Antipolo. Or in the crisp climes of Highlands Pointe and Villa Montserrat in Tagaytay. Or even among the luxuriant trees of Forest Farms in Antipolo. All these captivating communities are part of HAVILA, your own Eden.

The exceptional advantages of Havila:

- Recreational facilities, commercial areas and schools like San Beda College and PAREF Southhill School are located within Havila for the convenience of its residents.
- Accessible to Alabang, La Salle in Antipolo, La Salle Greenhills, Xavier School, Ateneo de Manila, Miriam College and University of the Philippines.
- Lifestyle conveniences like SM Taytay and the Ortigas Business District are just a short drive away.
- Medical City and Cardinal Santos Medical Center are within easy reach.
- The challenging courses of Valley Golf and Forest Hills Golf & Country Club are close by.
- A first-road connects all the communities to each other and to outlying areas for ease of travel.

Call or see to reserve your piece of inspiration and beauty.

Join our Professional Sales Team!
Call Ms. Chelle Solangui at (02) 653-0231 / 0939-1555784
or e-mail: careers@filinvestland.com

856-7788 • 703-2733 FILINVEST

super LIFESTYLE
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Winning flick, killer soundtrack

In what other movie can the leads make cute over "There is a Light That Never Goes Out" by the Smiths?

ZOOEY Deschanel as Summer and Joseph Levitt as Tom

By Noel S. De Veyra

"THIS IS A STORY OF BOY meets girl. But you should know up front, this is not a love story," intones the newly solemn narrator of "(500) Days of Summer," a film that whisks and indigos and ellipses swerves into swirling convolutions.

Of course it's a love story, but a smart-aleck one exquisitely tripwired with ambiguity, uncertainty and a killer soundtrack. It's sort of like real life with better-looking people and the iPod earbuds firmly in place.

In what other movie can the leads make cute over "There is a Light That Never Goes Out" by the Smiths?

Tom Hansen (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) is a serial romantic working at a greeting card company when he meets and is smitten by Summer Finn (Zooey Deschanel), an eccentric bombshell who doesn't take love seriously on principle.

This doomed hustle interests the true believer in true love and the nonbeliever plays out until romps in bliss and searches for things that elude.

Chemistry

Deschanel and Gordon-Levitt display sure chemistry as they curse and stalk through the fluctuations of Con-V romances, theoretically playing yes-another-version-of herself; Deschanel possesses a sunbeam-like screen presence, with her bladed eyelashes and bespoke doll beauty, as she plays the kooky, sad and unobtainable dream girl. She is all over this movie.

But it is Gordon-Levitt, his face lit up and dream-drawn to reflect the story of his personal life, who wins the audience over. The more he refuses to accept what he—and the audience—knows is happening, the more his 'fess slips into emotional oblivion because he can't help but believe Summer is the one.

"Just because she's likes the same obscure soup you do doesn't mean she's your soul mate," says character children's rapper Yess.

Not for nothing is director Marc Webb best known for his mighty music video work for acts like My Chemical Romance ("Helena") and Green Day ("21 Guns") as his scenes swoon to the songs he has adopted or the movies he avidly references.

The bits with the black-and-white Perculo cinema were inspired. With its shifting back and forth from day 1 to day 300 of the abovementioned "(500) Days" and every day in between, the movie achieves true

WEEKEND 21

Graphics Design Aldez Joshua Cano

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Century Park's room renovation

THE CENTURY PARK HOTEL, ONE of Manila's quaint HERITAGE properties since 1976 is never growing to be old is delightful. It was hard to the managers. As the city has evolved and ushered in a hip and dynamic spot, the Century Park Hotel is also keeping abreast to this evolving progress. The whole management and team are now introducing the beginning of the new Century.

Just recently, the hotel has started renovating its deluxe floors, echoing a dramatic Asian modern feel. The basic room feeling is an inspiration from the classic Asian wood panelling and woven mat techniques. Walls and ceilings are already painted with white, a contrast to the rich wood grains. While the bathrooms for all the floors, cabinetry and flat screen 29" to 42" LCD monitor have also been set up.

Introducing as well is a new wardrobe cabinet design to better accommodate the hotel operations like proper height of the mini bar and electronic safe as well as new full length headboards for flexibility of certain bed mix configurations which, as the same time, preserves the multi-functional nature inside. Other practical modern amenities include wifi internet in all deluxe rooms, iPod dock with alarm in all the corner suite rooms. The reading wand carpet is always safe pampering feature. To suit for tabletop colors, selected modern floral

wave and chandy light fixtures give the whole room a bright and restful look reflective of the 2 to seven degree.

The polished and neatly designed deluxe rooms are courtesy of the renowned Steven J. Leach Group, an Asian based group of international interior design firms.

'Thriller Nights' at The Solo Riviera Hotel

THE SOLO RIVIERA HOTEL IS SET TO GET into the spirit of Halloween with lots of fun, thrills and excitement for guests.

For only P3,000, until of an overnight accommodation in a standard moderate room (single/double), complimentary set breakfast for two persons and free entrance in the Strictly "Thrill or Treat" activity on Oct. 29.

Scary attractions, Halloween-themed games, and special prizes await kids at the Solo Riviera Hotel's pre-Halloween celebration on Oct. 29.

Cap off this thriller night with a special Halloween dinner buffet menu expertly concocted by the hotel's new executive chef Ric Dias. Avail of savory treats such as Grilled salmon Plate salad, Wilda's Jersey The Ogre's arms and Bergo Hollow goats.

Expect more exciting contests, games and everything activities at the hotel's "Trick or Treat" kiddie activity the following day from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This promo runs from Oct. 15 to Nov. 30.

This special Halloween menu is made possible with the support of Manila Ocean Park, Lemon Square, Absolute Drinking Water, Wadds of Fun, Universal Robina Corp and SM membership.

Room sharing with children is free of charge. Used/room of 2 children per room). For extra persons, avail of the hotel's special rate of P699 per pax, inclusive of set breakfast.

The inquiries call 832-3000 loc 71.

Beer and beef fest at The Market Cafe

HOW CAN YOU GET no to unlimited prime US rib eye steak and free-flowing beer? For the same price of P1,600 net per-son. The Market Café has added prime US rib eye steak, cooked fresh to your liking and matched with free-flowing beer and soda, to the dinner buffet for the whole month of October. Known for the freshness of the food it serves, The Market Café features fine international cuisines, specifically Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Indian, as well as an extensive selection of home-made desserts. Visit The Market Café located at Level 3 of Rizal Hotel and Casino Manila, 1 Mill Pedro Gil cor Mi-H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila. For enquiries and reservations, call 526-1234.

Enchanted Halloween at Dusit Thani Manila

ENTER INTO A WORLD WHERE fairies, elves, dwarfs, sorcerers and other mystical creatures dwell - the world of the Enchanted Forest.

With guest hosts Twitchy the Witch and Jeffrey the Legend, kids are in for an afternoon of enchanting Halloween roars, fun games, storytelling, glitter tattoo, arts and crafts, more and

more! All these will be happening at the Dusit Thani Manila's Enchanted Forest on Oct. 31, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom. For only P700, kids and parents alike will be treated to an afternoon filled with a buffet, entertainment, and exciting activities. Aside from the kiddie giveaways, youngsters will be delighted to dress up for the costume contest. The best-costumed will win great prizes including an overnight stay at The Bellevue's new Tower Wing. Before the start of the festivities, indulge in a hearty Halloween brunch at the hotel's main dining outlet Cafe d'Asie. Tickets for the Halloween party is available at the front desk. For inquiries, call 771-4181.

Naga Regent's Matchbox Karaoke and Music Lounge

SING TO YOUR HEART'S DELIGHT IN NAGA REGENT HOTEL'S MATCHBOX Karaoke and Music Lounge, that offers non-stop singing entertainment with its Open Karaoke where guests can choose from a collection of over 60,000 songs in various languages and genres. It also offers exclusive karaoke quarters for a group of 6. It is in 15 persons which guests can enjoy singing in the privacy of their own room. As the rooms are completely soundproof, their health and wellness, the Sauna, Jacuzzi and Fitness Center is set to open in 2010. And those who want non-stop action, the Game Room, also set to open in 2010, is the perfect destination with exciting choices of games to choose from. The Regent's incomparable blend of hospitality is highlighted by its thoughtful anticipation of guests' every need with the convenience it offers: two elevator service, stand-by generator, airport transfers, laundry services, wi-fi hotspots in all floors and room-by. The hotel has twelve executive rooms of various sizes with premium amenities that offer great value for any event. Indeed, the Regent Hotel and Convention Center has everything that every guest would ask for. For inquiries call +6354 472-0626, +632 687-8000 or visit www.regentgrandhotel.com.

'Dine-All-You-Can at the Palace'

A FEAST FIT FOR AN EMPEROR AWAITS YOU AT EDSA SHANGRI-LA at Summer Palace presents "Dine All-You-Can at the Palace" from Oct. 15 to May 10, classic unlimited servings from a sumptuous six-day menu specially composed by the hotel's Chinese cuisine culinary chefs. Choose from a selection of appetizers, soup, dimsum, main courses, rice and noodles and cap of your meal with savory desserts. All for only P888++. For inquiries and reservations, please call 633-8888.

Honor your Christmas wishes with Starbucks

WISHING IS AT THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS. STARBUCKS IS JOINING in the fun and honoring wishes by bringing back delightful Christmas favorites such as the Toffee Nut Latte, Dark Cherry Mocha and Peppermint Mocha. Toffee Nut Latte is a rich, buttery flavor of sweet toffee, combined with the warmth of toasted nuts and blended with smooth espresso and velvety steamed milk. Topped with whipped cream and toffee-flavored sprinkles. Try pairing this beverage with Christmas Turkey Chicken on Cranberry Bread. Dark Cherry Mocha consists of warm bittersweet chocolate infused with the flavor of dark cured dried cherries, combined with espresso and steamed milk, finished with whipped cream and a dusting of cocoa powder. Try pairing this beverage with Chocolate Molten Cake. Dark by popular demand, Peppermint Mocha is made with rich chocolate, smooth espresso and velvety steamed milk blended with refreshing peppermint and topped with whipped cream and candy cane sprinkles. Try pairing this beverage with Créme Brûlée Cheesecake.

A Hershey's' Halloween at The Bellevue

PUT ON YOUR OPTIMISTIC and colorful costumes and get your goodie bags ready as The Bellevue Hotel in partnership with Hersheys brings in a Candyland themed Halloween party for the entire family on Oct. 31, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Grand Ballroom. For only P700, kids and parents alike will be treated to an afternoon filled with a buffet, entertainment, and exciting activities. Aside from the kiddie giveaways, youngsters will be delighted to dress up for the costume contest. The best-costumed will win great prizes including an overnight stay at The Bellevue's new Tower Wing. Before the start of the festivities, indulge in a hearty Halloween brunch at the hotel's main dining outlet Cafe d'Asie. Tickets for the Halloween party is available at the front desk. For inquiries, call 771-4181.

Microtel

Winning flick, killer soundtrack

From page D1

MULTI-TALENTED and omnipresent: Ensop Bachanal

takeoff velocity when the music causes us, an eclectic mix of songs by everyone from Regina Spektor to Kid A Omos, plus She & Him (a band that, of course, includes Deschanel).

There are moments when "(500) Days" clearly gets too cute, too self-aware, needlessly and ironic. After all, this is a movie with parenthesis in its title. With all that Webb has going on in the movie, it can get tactic too much.

Silliness

But then Webb handles the awkward conversations between Tom and Summer with authentic silliness, knowing when to just let the scene run by itself. His visual gymnastics (check out the hand-drawn cityscapes doing easy impress, but it's his subtle touches that prove most effective.

Like an older, more cynical take on "Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist," the relatively short (just a little over an hour and a half) and snappy "(500) Days" is not your conventional romcom in any conceivable way yet its refreshing lead actors and deft directorial touches give it an emotional boundary that the more manicured Hollywood boy-meets-girl flicks cannot hope to match.

At its heart, "(500) Days of Summer" is a candid and thoughtful vision of what really happens when you build your world around one girl, especially when that girl is the multi-talented and omnipresent Zooey Deschanel—compelling proof that the free and honest exchange of romantic ideas can be wounding and invaluable.

20th Century Fox's "(500) Days of Summer" is now showing in Metro Manila cinemas.

Tours, Leisure & Chow

'Hauntingly Happy Halloween' at BSA Tower, BSA Suites and Perla Mansion

BSA TOWER, BSA SUITES AND PERLA Mansion greet their guests with a "Hauntingly Happy Halloween" package. From Oct. 26 to Nov. 5, book a one bedroom premiere or one bedroom executive at these trilisted properties the only P3,100 net per night. This package includes an breakfast for 2, in-room massage, complimentary use of Internet, welcome drink at Caffe Mamou Greenbelt 5, and wonderfully spooky surprises.

Well-suited to comfortable suites of Makati's business and leisure communities, BSA Tower, BSA Suites and Perla Mansion offer fully air-conditioned apartments that are furnished with separate living, dining, kitchen, and bedroom areas with free and cold water facilities. Expertly managed by the renowned property management team of Quantum Hotels and Resorts, they also feature the most convenient alleyway ranging from daily set breakfast served in-room, complimentary bottled water on the first night, coffee and tea upon check-in, daily supply of the local newspaper to daily housekeeping service.

For inquiries and reservations, call the Makati reservations office at (632)884-1903, 5522989/90-0334 or e-mail makatisales@quantumresorts.com.

Introductory offers at the Oakroom Restaurant and Bar

THE OAKROOM RESTAURANT AND BAR AT THE NEW OAKwood Premier Joy-Nostalg Center Manila in Ortigas Center introduces a full day of promotional offers from lunch to dinner. On weekdays, the "Executive Set Lunch" provides sumptuous options for a business lunch or a leisurely repast. Diners have a choice between a three course set menu (inclusive of appetizer and entrée or entrée and dessert (P508+++ plus taxes and service charge); or a three course set menu (inclusive of appetizer, entrée and dessert (P788+++). Every group of four persons availing of the "Executive Set Lunch" will enjoy one complimentary beer, courtesy of the house. The "Executive Set Lunch" at Oakroom is available 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., Monday to Friday. At dinnertime, patrons are treated to a complimentary bottle of house wine for orders of main courses for two persons or more. The Oakroom has its own "1 + 1" special which entitles guests to complimentary drink for every order of poke/entrees, beers and standard house spirits from 6 to 9 p.m. daily. The Oakroom restaurant and bar is located at the 5th level of Oakwood Premier Joy-Nostalg Center Manila on 17 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center. It offers international dishes and an excellent selection of beverages from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily (bar extends up to 12 a.m.). For reservations, call 637-7888 and 910-8888 ext. 8804.

Promos for families at Imperial Palace Suites

QUEZON CITY'S LARGEST HOTEL, IMPERIAL PALACE Suites is offering a promotional package that strengthens bond among members of the family and enable them to have great time together. For a one-night stay, a family gets free buffet breakfast for four persons, complimentary voucher worth P500 at Center Stage 4-Pc, another voucher worth P1,000 at The Park, unlimited wi-fi access inside the room, and free use of the fully-equipped gym and the gym. The room rates, which already include the service charge and tax, are only P5,800 for the classic 1-bedroom suite, P6,600 for the deluxe 2-bedroom suite, and P7,600 for the penthouse suite. The Imperial Palace Suites is a favorite hotel of travelling or vacationing families because of its big guest rooms with living, dining and kitchen facilities. Nonetheless, the hotel also offers promotional packages for executive travelers and newly-weds. All the promo rates are valid from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15. Imperial Palace Suites is located at the corner of "Timog ave" Tomas Morato. Reservations, inquiries and cancellations can be made at tel. no. 927-4001 to 05, e-mail reservations@imperial.ph, or visit www.imperial.ph or www.accorhotels.com/3603.

Where to Eat in Manila

Hotel Concepcion
Hotel Elizabeth
Hotel Nueva
Sura Boracay Hotel & Restaurant
Isabelle Garden Hotel
Isabelle Serviced Hotel & Suites
Le Jardin Country Resort Hotel, Inc.
Legarda Hotel
The Lighthouse Marina Resort
Lima Park Hotel
Mallberry Suites Boutique Hotel
Marina Island Resort
Marriott Cebu City Hotel
Mabini Bay Resort
The Plaza Hotel
Monticello Villa Hotel
Montevista Villas
NEW BRIDGE
Ply Gem Cebu
Regal Lord Hotel
Regal Regent Hotel
Quin Hotel
Oro Tagaytay Nuvo Hotel Suites
Oro Cebu Beauty Hotel
Plantation Bay Resort and Spa
Chowking Villa Hotel
Pasta Cocina Restaurant Hotel
Punta del Sol Beach Resort
The Pearl Farm Beach Resort
Grand Palm Inn
Regency Hotel Manila
The Royal Mandaya Hotel
RK Hotel
RK Guest House
Sarova International Hotel
San Antonio Resort
Garden Plaza Hotel
Impero Villas
Sun Garden Tourist Hotel
Swarovski Hotel
Subic International Hotel
Subic Holiday Villas
Subic Park Hotel
Sunrise Holiday Mansion
Subic Bay Vacation Hotel
Summer Place Hotel
Tara's Mystique Hotel
Tall Palm Hotel
Hotel Tierra Sunsets
Hotel Venezia
Villa Maria Hotel & Resort
Waterfront Cebu City Hotel & Casino
White Sand Beach Resort
White Rock Hotel

Where to Eat in Manila

Conway's
Conway's Bar
Ming Court
DOME
Cheese Cake Factory / Shanghai Sidewalk
Dencio's Original Sa Pamilihan
MUSEUM CAFE
Asian Restaurant / Specialty Restaurant
The Old Spaghetti House
The Coco Grove & The Loft
Bonsai
Kabuki Restaurant
Kenny Rogers Roasters
Ma-an Seafood Restaurant
Ristorante Italiano
Pancake House
Burger King
Chowking
Greenwich
Jollibee
Mang Inasal
Shakey's
Tokyo Tokyo
Yellow Cab Pizza
Max's Restaurant
Pizza Hut
Sarabeth's Restaurant
Tim Ho Wan
Tsuruhashi
Yabu
Yoshinoya
Bo's Coffee
Figaro Coffee
Gloria Maris
Seattle's Best Coffee
Starbucks Coffee
Tapa King
Tapsilog Express
Tokyo Garden
Tokyo Tokyo
Toyo Eatery
Wendy's
Yabu
Yoshinoya
Zagu
Zark's Burgers
Cibo
Cravings
Dean & Deluca
Delifrance
Eggstasy
Fish & Co.
Fish Market
Gerry's Grill
Gloria Maris
Goldilocks
Hap Chan
Kabisera
Kanin Club
Kashmir
Kenny Rogers Roasters
Kuya J
Lido Marie Restaurant
Mario's
Max's Restaurant
Mesa
Mister Donut
Pancake House
Pepper Lunch
Pizza Hut
Ramen Nagi
Ramen Yushoken
Sarabeth's Restaurant
Sentro Grille
Shakey's
Sizzling Plate
Tapa King
Tapsilog Express
Tokyo Garden
Tokyo Tokyo
Toyo Eatery
Wendy's
Yabu
Yoshinoya
Zagu
Zark's Burgers
Cibo
Cravings
Dean & Deluca
Delifrance
Eggstasy
Fish & Co.
Fish Market
Gerry's Grill
Gloria Maris
Goldilocks
Hap Chan
Kabisera
Kanin Club
Kashmir
Kenny Rogers Roasters
Kuya J
Lido Marie Restaurant
Mario's
Max's Restaurant
Mesa
Mister Donut
Pancake House
Pepper Lunch
Pizza Hut
Ramen Nagi
Ramen Yushoken
Sarabeth's Restaurant
Sentro Grille
Shakey's
Sizzling Plate

HORRORS! IT'S HALLOWEEN AT SM MEGAMALL!

Ghoulish Goblin Gallery

Hey, moms and dads! If you're in a spell over where to take your kids for Halloween, troop on over to SM Megamall where tricks, treats and prizes await you.

Festivities start off as early as October 27th with fun photo booths set up at the main entrances of Building A and B, the Veranda, the Cinema, the Basement and 5th Level. Take your pictures in the Spooky Dot Room, the Groovy Graveyard, the Ghoulish Goblin Gallery and with Pepper's Ghost.

HORRIFIC HALLOWEEN BALL

HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST

10am to 4pm on Oct. 31
at the Mega Atrium 2nd Floor.
Bring your little ghosts and goblins and they could get a chance to win some great prizes!

Mallwide Trick or Treat

Oct. 31, 8am-5pm
It's free and guided by
our kids-friendly staff.
Register at the Manila Ballroom Hall

Batman: The Brave and the Bold

Learn the crimefighting tricks of superheroes at Crimebuster Camp from Oct. 30 to Nov. 1.
Plus meet and greet Batman and his friends on Oct. 31 at: 2pm, 4pm and 6pm.
Catch both at the SM Megamall Event Center!

Pepper's Ghost

Then, come over to the SM Megamall Event Center for Batman: The Brave and the Bold Crimebuster Camp starting October 30th where you can meet some of your favorite superheroes.

On October 31st, kids can dress up and trick or treat all around the mall. They can also join the costume contest for a chance to win amazing prizes.

All activities run until November 1st. Check out print ads and posters for the full list of schedules. It's going to be a horrifically delightful long weekend that only SM Megamall can bring. See you there!

SO FUN IT'S SCARY!

Bring the whole family! And after all that bone-chilling fun, enjoy the wide range of dining treats and awesome shopping you've always loved at SM Megamall.

Spooky Dot Room

Groovy Graveyard

Free mall-wide Wi-Fi access
Valet Parking Available.
Concierge Contact Number: 631-3363

MEGAMALL
Endless shopping. Endless Discoveries.
www.sm-megamall.com

26 LIFESTYLE

How to maximize the basic white tee

What do I do with my 23 white tops? You'll be surprised

By Dominique Maria Tio
Contributor

BEFORE I GOT carved off to Ateneo for my freshman orientation, my mother took one good look at the clothes I had stashed in my luggage and said: "You are not going to Manila with all those!"

I figured she meant the volume. After all, I had the misconception that I'd be living in a dorm, and I wasn't even half-done yet. I reasoned with her that college means "not having to wear uniforms" (I came from a conservative, Catholic high school in Cebu), ergo, an opportunity to flaunt my ability to make sensational sartorial choices.

She rolled her eyes, stumbled across "Web," and took out several of my teeny cotton shirts, shoeless socks and high-heeled shoes, making my bride's vanity stash then all in one neat pile.

"You need more comfortable and conservative clothes, something you can use every day," she declared.

So I washed my hot pink miniskirt and cotton Mini Dutch skirt for two basic layers: one she got from Giordano, one in black, the other in white.

I was a bit torn. Obviously as my 16-year-old logic-orphaned, basic tees were much too plain—and damn it all to hell and back if I had to pair them with pants and loafers.

Plus, they were P499 each, and back then, P499 meant four trips to the movie house, or filmic highlights from the store.

Overpriced?

I could remember dipping the tag of a plain white scoop-neck and thinking the world would be a much happier place if I threw it out the window. Really. P899 for a cotton shirt? It's not as if it runs Lycra-infused. Not a smidgeon of spandex even! Overpriced!

That was pretty much me, circa 2004. I guess the older we become, the bigger the tendency for us to regress? Obviously, I miss my practical, thrifty self (she was also a prime child for haircuts-to-bed).

It wasn't until Mary Kate Olsen, Lindsay Lohan and some thirteen G-list celebrity [Concraft?] cause and with paparazzi shots of themselves wearing basic V-neck tees and skinny jeans that I seriously considered hunting for the "perfect" plain white tee.

I tried pieces after pieces, from department store staples to local brands, expanding my former budget of P300 to P499 to maybe, P799? But none seemed right. They weren't aesthetically pleasing with my jeans, they didn't fall to the right places, they had wrong proportions.

Really, would it take the crowd to end before I could get my hands on a good one?

Compliments

Behaving, I hiked up all the way to Zara and got a top for P995. I had buyer's remorse as soon as I got my package. I thought of all the nice things I could have purchased with the price (sweet-and-a half movie trips, maybe).

However, when I wore it, everyone assured complimenting me: "You look so slender," "Your top fits you perfectly," and yeah, the top did hid a bit past the top of my hip bone, and made a bit of my collarbone peek.

It dipped low in my chest but not low enough to be lewd. I know it's shallow, but it was magic to me. That was, I bid you con, the start of my loving relationship with Zara (and consequently, high-end fashion boutiques like Topshop, Mandito Deco, Warehouse, every designer shops like Marc Jacobs and DKNY).

I have a total of 23 basic white tops now (I hope my mother doesn't come across this article). Someone practical would tell me, "but Dezzie, they all look the same!" There I'd have to go through this long explanation about how different each is, from the materials to the style to the ways they can be used—ribbed, just plain cotton, stretch, long, loose, tight, cropped, boat-neck, V-neck, sleeveless, long-sleeved, half sleeves, cross neck, to V-neck ...

There's just so much you can do with it. I embedded my close friend Tricia, showed her some of my clothes, and asked her how we can add the basic white top to any fashion ensemble.

So we came up with these:

MATCH IT WITH YOUR FAVE SKIRTS
On Dezzie: White oversized tank from Zara, belt from Bloomingdale's, bandeau skirt from Hong Kong. On Bianca: White oversized tank from Zara, necklace from Accessorize, tiered from Stampedeme. Lace bodycon skirt from Hong Kong.

PAIR WHITE T-SHIRT WITH JACKETS
On Dezzie: White tee from Zara, leather jacket from Hong Kong, shorts from Diesel, shoes from J.Lo. On Bianca: White tee from Zara, blazer from Zara, shorts from Malaysia, shoes from Aldo.

LAYER WITH BODYCON COTTON DRESSES
On Dezzie: White oversized tank from Zara, body-con dress from Zara, necklace from Accessorize. On Bianca: White oversized tank from Zara, striped bandeau dress from Zara, white pumps from Aldo.

GARFIELD

FUSAO BABOY

LOVEHONOTE

DIVINE COMEDY

TULOOK

ATOMO AND WEEGY

BIKO MACHINE

DICK TRACY

JAMES BOND

BABY BLUES

BEN

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — By Dave Green

	6							
			1		5	7		6
	5	9	2			3		
	1					2	9	
				5				
	8	4					7	
		6			8	1	4	
7		3	6		1			
							6	

Difficulty level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	4	5	2	7	8	6	9	3
3	9	2	4	1	6	5	7	8
7	6	8	3	9	5	2	1	4
2	3	6	7	4	1	8	5	9
4	8	1	5	6	9	3	2	7
5	7	9	8	2	3	4	6	1
9	1	4	6	8	2	7	3	5
6	5	7	1	3	4	9	8	2
8	2	3	9	5	7	1	4	6

Marvin Maratacos, 18, De La Salle University
Course: Civil Engineering
Interests: Golf, basketball, reading Calvin and Hobbes, studying, hanging out with friends
Fashion style: Simple but still being stylish to make a statement.

Tin De Vonocio, 19, De La Salle University
Course: Business Management
Interests: I love traveling, I like anything that I haven't seen, sights, people, and food.
Fashion style: My fashion style definitely represents my personality. I like looking simple and adding a little "spunk" to my typical look.

Aaron Dela Cruz, 19, De La Salle University
Course: Marketing Management
Interests: Music is my passion and I really love sports; more especially basketball and soccer.
Fashion style: Boy next door look—khaki and sneakers!

Patricia Sanchez, 18, De La Salle University
Course: Organizational Communication
Fashion style: Every time I go to school my daytime style is always practical, casual and chic. I always dress for myself and I want to feel good with what I'm wearing.

New gateway to young fashion

French youth fashion brand Gate One invades the Philippines

CINDERELLA Marketing Corp. (CMC), the distributor-franchisee of ESPRIT, British India, Pierre Cardin, NuNuf, Ooh Aroh B'Gosh and Clarks, has brought in a new French youth fashion brand called, Gate One.

From 1996 when its first store opened at the Champs Elysees in Paris, Gate One has become a leader in young fashion, conquering markets in Eastern Europe, Middle East, Asia and Africa. It has stores in France, Canada, Russia, Germany, Hungary, Brazil, Australia and Japan, to name a few.

Carrying its strong brand philosophy—youth, freedom and comfort—Gate One will surely suit the taste of the young Pinoy.

Gate One makes simplicity a world as casuals, work as smart, embroidery and denim decorations. The brand believes in multi-cultural fashion...apparent in its designs, which balances contrast and recognition, material and technique.

Style One is at Cinderella Alabang Town Center, Cinderella SM Megamall and Cinderella Greenhills.

Maxine Anne McAninch, 21, University of Asia and the Pacific
Course: Management
Interests: I'm a very laid back person, usually spending the weekends with family and friends. I enjoy watching horror movies and classics like "The Godfather" and "Scarface." I wouldn't mind being a contestant of "Fear Factor," go sky diving, or even go diving with great white sharks.
Fashion style: My fashion style is usually dependent on what clothes I'm comfortable in. I'm laidback, so my wardrobe is a steady supply of shirts, tees and jeans, and a lot of hoodies usually paired with sneakers. I'm not one to follow trends, but when I do feel like dressing up I do take cues from some Hollywood celebrities or magazines.

Trust Only the Specialist

You wouldn't want just anybody touching your face. That is why there is only Nora Dela Rosa for you.

Because you want to look your best. Each time you come to her for help, you get a personalized treatment only she can provide.

If there is someone who knows how to treat a face like her own, it's Nora Dela Rosa. You only need to think about the 37 years she has devoted in treating clients personally to make sure everything is done perfectly.

With keen attention to the intricacies of each and every individual face. That is what a specialist is apt to provide.

No mistakes, only beautiful results.

Main Clinic
427 Marinas St., Mandaluyong City
Tels. 532-2118 / 533-6872
Cell: 0905-6667289
Clinic Schedule:
Monday-Friday: 10AM - 7PM
Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM
By Appointments Only
US (California) Branch
10865 Lampson Ave., Garden Grove, California, USA, 92840
Tels. (714) 530-3124 c/o Dr. Pearl Ikeri

nora dela rosa
Since 1972

NOW OPEN FOR FRANCHISE
www.noradelarosa.ph

Sony Ericsson Walkman® phones bring music to life

Can your music phone do this?

Sony Ericsson
make.believe

EISA Best Product 2009-2010

How about a relief drive–in Halloween costumes?

Some party ideas to scare–or entertain–the daylights out of you and your gang

By Bianca Caranzi

GO AHEAD, HOLD A COSTUME party for Halloween. Add a kick to your typical get-together by adding a creative spin to the festivities.

Hold a Halloween-themed quiz night

Hold your own trivia night at home and prepare special categories. Do your friends know the meaning of "Samhainophobia?" Will they be able to identify what year the Count Dracula Society was founded? What's the difference between a ghoul and a ghost? Come up with questions on vampires, zombies and monsters and see how much your friends know. Don't forget to award prizes for winning!

Serve up some Halloween food

Serve themed food items such as candy apples, or brain (serve it in plastic skulls), pumpkin soup, blood-red cranberry juice (spike it with vodka to prevent it from becoming too clichéd), or other similar Halloween treats. You might want to pick up doughnuts from Krispy Kreme or Go Nuts to serve as dessert.

Have a Halloween viewing party

Watch only the Halloween episodes of your favorite TV shows, such as "How I Met Your Mother," "Big Bang Theory," "The Office," "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Friends," etc. Pretty much every major TV show has had a Halloween episode, so get a list of your favorite ones and show them to a loop.

Hold a 'The Simpsons Treehouse of Horror' marathon

There's a lot of Halloween shows out there, but if you can't decide on one, you will never go wrong with the Simpsons' classic Treehouse of Horror episodes. Give a prize to the person who can do the best Mr. Burns impersonation.

Have a photo shoot party

If you're lucky enough to have a photographer friend, have him/her set up some lights and a camera so you can all take turns posing in your best costumes. Come up with a background—it can be as simple as covering a wall with black or blue paper and posing in a corner—and some props, or as elaborate as designing a set right out of your favorite scary movie. It's a lot of effort, but the photos will be worth it.

Hold a relief drive-in costumes

First of all, make sure that the people you'll be inviting will appreciate strangers in weird costumes giving out relief goods. Kids usually like costumes, and if you make your costume extra silly than scary, you'll be able to give the flood victims a much-needed laugh. Bring treats, like candy, masks and Tide—instead of doing the collecting, you'll be doing the giving. If not a calamity-stricken zone, visit an orphanage or a children's hospital and watch their faces light up with the unexpected party.

Email the author at biancacaranzi@yahoo.com.

Super LIFESTYLE

Are you ready for the NU Rock Awards?

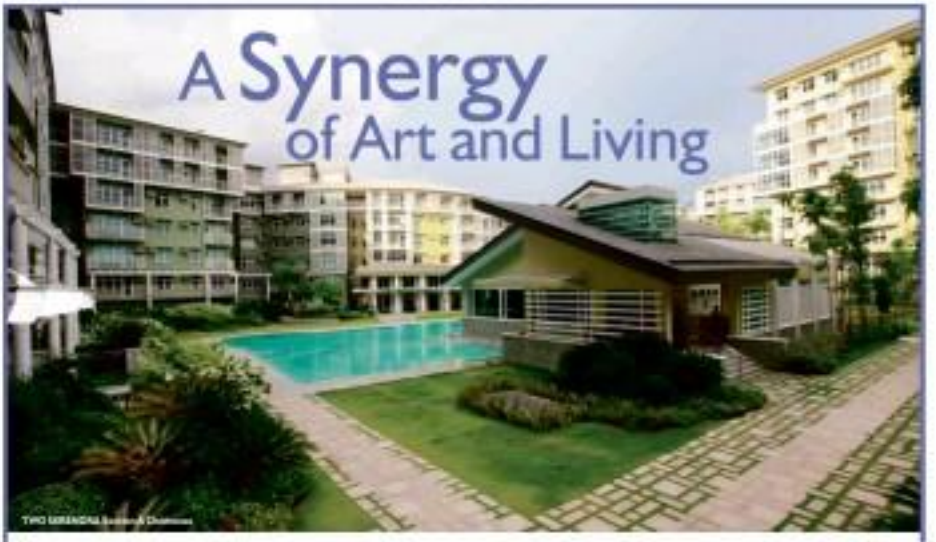
THE THEME OF THIS YEAR'S ROCK Awards is High Definition—the more basic reason being radio's shift into High Definition broadcasting.

What is interesting is that along with the arrival of High Definition technology, there is also a shift in the culture of music. Whereas three years ago the Rock awards would have a separate category for indie artists, these days indie is the norm. Past favorites such as Taken by Cars and Up Dharma Down are all independent, and there is a view of indie-ishness this year that shakes up not only the industry but the definition of rock as well. Yes, have the Roots ink Corporate Ln.Pl, one of the most exciting new artists this year, who combine hip-hop with a distinct bluegrass/big band flavor. There are also Zach Lozano's solo album, Still Crash Before—a combination of '90s alternative and 2000s indie rock; Deepdike, which feels like an edgier version of the classic, mid-Dexter; the supersize all-girl dancepunk band that combines Lourd de Veyra's outward lyrics with cousin Sin Grrl sensibilities.

This is where things get exciting, these rock music is currently redefining itself so greatly that it is becoming less of a genre and more of an attitude. The Chillers and The Disc of Body Special sound similar to many R&B artists today, but their DIY aesthetic and fiery performances make them rock. Likewise, Corporation Lo-Fi is by all stakes and purposes a hip hop band, but the focus on doing things live and organic makes them rock. There are already so many sub-genres as there are bands, and right now things are just paving the way for what looks like an exciting 2010. Expect a lot from The Techy Romantic' Dub Pop, Sleepwalk Circus's Neo-Rock, Kate Torralba's piano-driven alternative music, Tadhgerly's Electrosynth, The Bernadette's Garage Rock and Ex-3 Evil-O's bubblegum.

Noticeably absent the past year are new artists by the more established, and commercially successful but adventurous bands such as Sandwich and Chicosci but they went far from inactive, playing countless gigs here and to neighboring Asian countries. These bands, aided by sponsors, spent the past year playing many concerts, and fortunately, composing new material and new albums that may see a lot of action in the year between Rock Awards '09 and '10. The Pinoy Rock industry, on the surface, seems to have calmed down the past year, with friendlier new songs from new bands, and the more established bands crooning out their past

A Synergy of Art and Living


TWO SERENDRA Duplexes

A CELEBRATION of the synergy between art and life was recently the highlight of Alveo Land Corp.'s exhibit held at the Serendra Sales Pavilion-the scene of the most globally recognized artists and designers displayed their exceptional art pieces.

"The eclectic display of each artist's creative prowess is in fact inherent to our development. It's a privilege to have such gifted artists render the ideals of aesthetic living with interconnected sensitivity through visually-stunning artworks, especially since these are values that Alveo Land shares with them," says Melissa Joaid, Vice President for Project Development of Alveo Land, an Ayala Land company.

Take Taro Seimiddo for example. As a soloist, the developer's focus on providing residents with the best and grandeur of nature is evident in the sprawling grounds and numerous periodic gardens found within the 12-hectare development. In the same vein, Dodi Layug's pieces, which were inspired by nature and his travels, mirrors the vision of Taro Seimiddo, while Tony Boncaso' play on contrast, as evidenced through his central piece mirrors Taro Seimiddo's seductive living in the city concept.

Arne Pamintuan's handiwork, which showcased a decidedly more structured and modern style in "Gradini" reflects the functional and visually striking elements most evident in Alveo's Gems. The high-rise, located at the heart of the Makati Business District, underscores a stylized architectural and design aesthetic while still maintaining the high functionality that answers residents needs through exceptional amenities. On the other hand, Mits Nanud's central theme which features a collection designed to both serve as a homage to nature and artistic functionality is reflections of the values found in Treveia, Alveo's flagship development in the rising new metropolis, Nuvali. Created following the ideals of sustainability, Treveia underscores the importance of the environment through the incorporation of ecologically sound elements within the development to complement the natural ambiance that landscaped greens and open spaces provide.

Anchored on Alveo's exceptional attention to the environment, acclaimed artists such as Tim Pascia and Lissa Robinson who are known for exercising their creativity through the use of recycled paper materials, emphasize the importance of ecological sensitivity-one of the cornerstones of Alveo Land.

Finally, Cebu-based designer Kenneth Cobonpue's eye for beauty and contrast takes center stage. Apart from being patronage of this particular artist's handiwork, the ideals behind his art are reflected in his crafty use of natural, local materials and infusion of modern elements and design.

And for the same reason that we will continue to look out for these artists' new ideals to take form, Alveo Land is out to introduce innovations that will transcend its concept of residential living through unique amenities, exceptional architecture and a vision of building homes designed to offer the life that you deserve.

"More than anything, this was a fusion of art and the ideals of living—and given each artist's unique vision, we feel very honored for having been given an opportunity to be a part of it," says Joaid.

Alveo Land Corp., formerly Community Innovations, sets the benchmark for innovation in Ayala Land. Armed with channel foresight, unparalleled excellence and total commitment, Alveo Land Corp. is a real estate company that doesn't just find the means to provide the most innovative homes. It looks for ways to make you live the life you deserve. For more information, visit www.alveoland.com.ph, e-mail info@alveoland.com.ph or call (632) 8885100 (Metro Manila) and 1-800-10-8885100 (Outside Metro Manila).

TWO SERENDRA Duplexes

TREVEIA Clubhouse

TREVEIA Green Road

SENTIA

LAPUZ impressionistic painting provides perfect backdrop to Pamintuan's nickel-plated vases set on Layug's glass-topped bamboo table.

ROBINSON'S "Dragon's Tail," a series of multi-lamps wrapped in folded paper using the designer's very own origami techniques

NAPALI'S "Nature High" consists of grown woods with black-cushioned seats. Exaggerated backrests with acrylic leaves symbolize a forest of trees.

CALLED "Exotica," Pearls's wooden stools, accented with multicolored book-bound paper, are set against the artist's collages.

PAMINTUAN eschews her signature wire see-through chairs in favor of "Quadra," a massive sitting area-cum-coffee table of recycled and compressed aluminum.

GONZALES' sculptural chair and sofa of abaca and wings

COBONPUE showcases narra, one of the first materials he worked with, to produce his "Doodle" series.

Are you ready for the NU Rock Awards?

From page F1

him for the coming year will see everybody packing for concertgoers. A highlight from this past year is oh-comedy-for-second-round-breaking frame-breaks-creation-science, and if there is any band in Pinoy music history that has proven to be both ground-breaking and commercially successful, it is definitely the Wonder. The reunion concerts may have succeeded other local rock acts, new and vets, to pursue the standard established by the franchise, and quite possibly encouraged them to take things to the next level of creativity.

The past year in modern Pinoy Rock feels like the calm before the proverbial storm. Expect rock music's definition to no longer be explained, just felt. Expect a higher definition.

This year's Rock Awards will feature fantastic live performances from Chicosci, The Dawn, Frenzo, Greyhounds, Itchyworms, Juan Dela Cruz, Kamikazee, Kjwes, Pupil, Rico Blanco, Smaskeds, Sugarfree, Up Dharma Down and Wonderfall. These will also be performances from Daniel Padilla and The Lucasta in the pre-show. Tickets are available at all SM Tickemart outlets and at the Araneta Coliseum box office.

ROCK AWARDS '09: HERE'S HOW TO VOTA! is presented by:

2ND WORD: BEST MUSICIANS, SMART HOOP & GLOW, Abs Fitness, Bench Body, Bench Fragrances, Bench Jeans, Bench Underwear, Bench Watches, Bench Wear, Bench Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Sports, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Swim, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Tennis, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Pants, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shirts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Shorts, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Tops, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Underwear, Bench Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Wear Pro Yoga Watches, Bench Wear Pro Yoga

Candles and Flowers at SM

Glass plate holders with glittered edges

Colonia candles in eucalyptus, burning embers, and vanilla stem lavender scents

Tulsani candles in different colors

Red dragon candles

Over the years, candles have served as a source of illumination and inspiration. And today, these not only light, but also provide a sense of calmness to to private spaces.

SM Homeworld's collection of candles has votive candles for altars, scented candles that bring serenity and zen, decorative candles that make wonderful centerpieces, and with our November collection, candles of remembrance for loved ones. Matched with creatively designed candle holders and flower arrangements, these add interesting accents to one's home.

The collection is available at the Homeworld Department of all SM stores.

Candle holder in pewter with leaves carving

Tribal sun tea light holder

Votive candle holders

Glass holders with wood block base

Bamboo candle holders with candles

Altar candles

Chrysanthemum orchid flower arrangement

Candles in glass containers with religious images

Calla Lily, Artichoke and Banana Blossom arrangement

A bunch of mini roses in a vase

Tsuni, Calla Lily and Dancing Lady floral arrangement

SATURDAY Special

ROSALES. Carefully calibrated emotions and screen accessible sound.

CONCEPCION. A performer's choice of songs is key to his success—or failure.

Another crack at singing for Jericho, Gabby

By Nino P. Ashe

JERICHO ROSALES AND GABBY Concepcion are most known for their good looks and acting prowess than their singing skills. While they're not about to give up their day jobs as TV actors and film stars, like most Pinoys, they also find comfort in singing.

In fact...the heartthrobs of ABS-CBN's rainmovie, "Sukli: May Isang Buwis," have just released their sophomore recording endeavors—with Echo leaving behind the grungy alternative-rock sound of his recording debut in favor of mainstream pop, and Gabby taking the standards-and-ballroom route.

Musicality

If Rosales' self-titled debut was a showcase for his musicality via more accomplished second album, "Ulanggo," takes great care in displaying his capacity as a singer—which, truthfully, isn't much velvet-based fine, as his performance on "L.U.A.N." stints.

Fortunately, in the age of the Internet, recording is a medium that's for the most part skyarchest on technology, whose wonders bring out the unique texture of Echo's baritone. It likewise enables the paramount artist to declare carefully calibrated vocal conditions and a more accessible sound.

The album's 14-track repertoire has a good number of winners. Echo gives a stirring, almost rhinoceros version of David Gates' "Lose Without Your Love," and sticks to Bobby Vinton's sexy, groove-heavy revival of Eric Clapton's "Change The World." Mor. Espin's reggae-reminiscent take on the Beatles' "Read I Love Her" is likewise too precious to miss.

All three original tunes—"Sayang Ligaw" "I Love Your Price" and "Hanggang Ngayon"—are characterized by catchy hooks and memorable, radio-friendly melodies.

In a heady fusion of ukulele, guitars, drums and bass, the Jonas brothers' fitting "Love Bug," with the versatile participation of Paolo Montalan and the

ANOTHER 12

visit: www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA

SM DIGITAL THEATER EXCLUSIVE

WATCH IT IN
3D
OPENS OCT 21
EXCLUSIVE IN

DIGITAL THEATER

Log on to www.smcinema.com and get a chance to win DVDs, MOVIE POSTERS and BATTLE FOR TERRA MOUSE PADS.

Promo period: October 21 - 31, 2009

metro manila

DIGITAL THEATER

SM NORTH EDSA
BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D)
BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D)

SM MALL OF ASIA
BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D)
BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D)

SM MANILA
BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D)
BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D)

SM SAN LAZARO
BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D)
BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D)

SM STA. ROSA
BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D)
BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D)

SM VALENZUELA
BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D)
BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D)

IMAX THEATER

SM MALL OF ASIA
500 DAYS OF SUMMER

SM NORTH EDSA
500 DAYS OF SUMMER

DISCOVERY CLUB
500 DAYS OF SUMMER

PODIUM
HURT LOCKER
500 DAYS OF SUMMER

SM NORTH EDSA
1 THE HURT LOCKER
2 BRUNO
3 THE ECHO
4 RED CLIFF
5 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
6 BOOK OF BLOOD
7 ECHO
8 IN MY LIFE
9 HALLOWEEN 2
10 G-FORCE (Digital 3D) / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
11 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
12 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
13 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
15 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

SM MALL OF ASIA
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

SM MANILA
1 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
2 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
3 RED CLIFF / HALLOWEEN 2
4 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
5 HALLOWEEN 2 / THE ECHO
6 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
7 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
8 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
9 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
10 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
11 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
12 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
13 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
14 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

SM STA. ROSA
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

SM VALENZUELA
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

luzon

CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

CITY LIPA
1 THE FINAL DESTINATION
2 BOOK OF BLOOD
3 HORSEMEN
4 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

CITY LUCENA
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

CITY BACOOR
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

CITY ETA. RIOSA
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

CITY TAYTAY
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

SAN CLARO
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

CITY BATANGAS
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

CITY NAVOTAS
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

visayas • mindanao

CITY BANAS
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

CITY CEBU
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

CITY CEBU
1 THE ECHO
2 RED CLIFF
3 IN MY LIFE
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 THE ECHO
6 HALLOWEEN 2
7 BATTLE FOR TERRA (3D) / RED CLIFF
8 BATTLE FOR TERRA (2D) / THE ECHO
9 HURT LOCKER / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
10 500 DAYS OF SUMMER / HALLOWEEN 2
11 HALLOWEEN 2 / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
12 THE HURT LOCKER / HALLOWEEN 2
13 THE ECHO / 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
14 RED CLIFF / THE ECHO
15 THE HURT LOCKER / RED CLIFF
16 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE HURT LOCKER
17 BOOK OF BLOOD / THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE
18 HORSEMEN / BOOK OF BLOOD
19 THE FINAL DESTINATION / HORSEMEN
20 THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE / THE FINAL DESTINATION

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

CINEMA ACCESS: 395-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA
1 JULIE & JULIA
2 RED CLIFF
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 THE HURT LOCKER
5 HALLOWEEN 2
6 G-FORCE (Digital 3D) / SUPERCROOKS
7 BOYLETS
8 AMO LARO NG BUHAY NI JUAN
9 THE ECHO
10 CARRIERS

ERMITA
1 CARRIERS
2 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
3 THE HURT LOCKER
4 HALLOWEEN 2
5 THE ECHO
6 RED CLIFF
7 THE UGLY TRUTH / HOT TUBCITTEN
8 THE ECHO
9 IN MY LIFE

METRO EAST
1 HALLOWEEN 2
2 THE HURT LOCKER
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 CARRIERS
5 RED CLIFF
6 THE UGLY TRUTH / HOT FORGOTTEN
7 THE ECHO
8 IN MY LIFE

NOVALICHES
1 HALLOWEEN 2
2 BRUNO
3 THE ECHO
4 RED CLIFF

PIONEER
1 THE HURT LOCKER
2 HALLOWEEN 2
3 500 DAYS OF SUMMER
4 CARRIERS

Watch this movie in Disney Digital 3D in Moviewworld's DIGITAL 3D CINEMA
Robinsons Moviewworld GALLERIA Cinema 6

STILL SHOWING

MOVIEWORLD

STA. ROSA
1 THE TIME'S TRAVELER'S WIFE
2 BOOK OF BLOOD
3 ECHO
4 IN MY LIFE

LIPA
1 THE FINAL DESTINATION
2 BOOK OF BLOOD
3 HORSEMEN
4 THE TIME'S TRAVELER'S WIFE

DASMARIÑAS
1 BOOK OF BLOOD
2 IN MY LIFE
3 THE ECHO
4 RED CLIFF

IMUS
1 RED CLIFF
2 IN MY LIFE
3 BOOK OF BLOOD
4 THE ECHO

STARMILLS
1 IN MY LIFE
2 THE GAMER
3 THE ECHO
4 ECHELON CONSPIRACY
5 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT
6 THE FINAL DESTINATION

ANGELES
1 THE FINAL DESTINATION
2 THE HAUNTED
3 THE ECHO
4 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT

TACLOBAN
1 HORSEMEN
2 SORORITY ROW
3 BOOK OF BLOOD

BACOLOD
1 BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT
2 AMO LARO SA BUHAY NI JUAN
3 NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH
4 SORORITY ROW
5 THE FINAL DESTINATION
6 YANGGAW

ILOILO
1 PANDORUM
2 FAME
3 G-FORCE
4 SORORITY ROW
5 THE FINAL DESTINATION
6 AMO LARO SA BUHAY NI JUAN

GEN. SANTOS (NOW OPEN!)
1 G-FORCE
2 THE GAMER
3 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER
4 MY SISTER'S KEEPER

WATCH it LIVE via SATELLITE
at Robinsons Moviewworld
GALLERIA, MANILA,
METRO EAST, IMUS, BACOLOD
ILOILO, TACLOBAN & GENSAN

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

P550
(GALLERIA, MANILA & METRO EAST)

P450
(IMUS, ILOILO & BACOLOD)

P300 / P250
(TACLOBAN / GENSAN)

Their time to shine

By Nestor U. Torre

THE RECENT RELEASE OF THE new "Twins" movie has focused the spotlight, not just on its new stars, but also on the original film's headliners.

The lead players of the original 1988 production were Danny Devito, Debbie Reynolds, Chris Owen and Barry Willis, among others. Cass benefited from her exposure in the film, winning the Academy Award for Best Original Song for the film's theme, "Twins." "Out from On My Own" was also nominated.

Struggling performers

The movie also won an Oscar for Best Original Score. Other nominations garnered by the production were for Original Screenplay (Christopher Cooe), Direction (Ivan Reitman) and Musical (Michael Gore). Golden Globe nominations were for Cass as Best Actress and for Original Music. ...Jon had for "Jail" a rave film about struggling young performers.

Again to its credit, the 1988 movie spawned a TV series, a video and movie sequel, a musical that has played on London's West End since 1995. The original film has also been recreated on DVD.

NAUGHTON. Sings some of the most attention-calling production numbers in "Fame."

FRANDSEN. Unique combination of beauty and talent.

Coming from such an acclaimed psycho-biker, the 2009 movie holds a similarly promising young cast, the most experienced of whom is Nenet Naughton, who we previously saw emoting the feisty role of Lil Kim in the controversial film, "Notorious."

In "Fame," Nenet comes up with a completely different character portrayal, so can't blame that she's versatile. More to the point, she sings some of the most attention-calling production numbers in the 2009 production, so her Future as a musical theater and recording artist appears to be secure.

Credits

Naughton's other performing credits include the role of Little Joy in "Shakespeare" and a solo debut album and a UK Top 40 hit, the theme song of "Fame," Clearly, she's poised to do as well as Jennifer Cantu or Jordan.

Another new "Fame" standout is the young and lovely Kay Frandsen, who plays the lead role of Jenny Garrison, a dreamand vocals student at the New York High School for the Performing Arts. Like Naughton, Kay has had years of show biz experience, having acted on TV shows like "ER," "Summerland," "The Heroes" and "The Jamie Kennedy Experiment."

In the movies, she contracted with Famous Bulwers and Amy Bradshaw in "Penny Dreyer," for which they were nominated for Best Young Ensemble Performance in the Young Artist Awards. She was also nominated for Best Performance in a TV Series for "Summerland" and for her guest performance on "ER."

Glowing notices

In 2007, the Dixie Film Awards gave Kay its award for Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture for her performance in the feature film, "Moondance Alexandra." With all of these glowing notices so early in her career, Kay is clearly positioned to be one of the brightest young stars in Hollywood, due to her unique combination of beauty and talent.

Other stars of the 2009 "Fame" movie who've garnered exceptionally encouraging notices are Asher Book and Collins Pennie.

Comfort foods

IF I WERE ASKED WHAT MY top comfort foods are, they would include a bowl of piping-hot mami, two special dapuan, some siomai and a glass of coke. What, I was almost 11 years old, my good friend, chef Tina, said I would ride a jeepney to our Redondo church to go to a restaurant in Cubao and spend our born on dinner downtown.

Many years later, I discovered Mandi, a place in Shaw-do that offered more or less the same menu. When I checked it out, it boasted of the same quality—and more. The siomai is served non-similar to the delicious siomai of my Redondo church years. But, since it was such a hassle to go to Redondo, I would seldom go there.

Quality

A few years ago, a friend of chef Brando restaurant finally opened in Greenhills in Ortigas. It was interesting to note that, while the food was similar, the quality wasn't quite the same—sadly.

One evening, after a game of badminton, I decided to give Mandi another try. This time, the experience was different. The siopao was as scrumptious as I remembered it—the steamed bun was moist, the meat lean, and the fat was not visible, and, with its sauce, it was simply delicious!

The piping-hot siomai was similarly superb. Also tasteful were the pork, chicken or beef patty—a platter of meat with sweet sauce on the side. Succulent!

Recently, I discovered another restaurant—the Redondo church years. Which I enjoyed when I dipped it in its sauce. It was also hard to stick to my one-siopao-only resolve. The food was that good!

Check out Mandi's special siopao, chicken or beef patty, siomai platter, Indo-Indo siopao and beef mami. The restaurant, located at unit 23, Bukal bldg., 68 Ortigas ave. ext. Madison st., San Juan, is owned by the family of my dear friend, Wilson Mo, and his lovely wife, Irma, and is being managed these days by Wilson's sister, Willow.

Happy eating!

E-mail: mo@manila.com.ph

Unique field trip

LAST WEEK, 38 VISUAL ARTS students from Brent International School embarked on a unique field trip to picturesque Sonya's Garden in Alfonso, Tagaytay, for a one-day photoworkshop. Their advisers, Jay Custodio and Andrew Wale, asked us to lecture about portraiture, fashion, architectural and nature photography. Rico Robles was also there to discuss composition.

Pleasant surprise

The participants were very enthusiastic. After a hearty lunch, they began working on their assigned tasks. Thereafter, an hour was devoted to evaluate and critique their photographs. To my pleasant surprise, the quality of the images was more than I expected—the pictures looked polished and professional. And, the students were amazed by what they had accomplished.

There's only something about teaching that keeps me on my toes and brings me satisfaction and fulfillment. Selected photographs from that workshop will be featured in an exhibit on Nov. 11-20 at the Brent International School Manila Fine Arts Hallway, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

...

Recently, more than 200 *kids took part in the Read-Aloud session and feeling program organized by the Cup and the Amazing Extravaganza Foundation at Bambang Elementary School. You may drop off your donations at The Grapevine, Suite 600, 2330 Taft ave., Manila. Call 359 3915 345-6253, or visit www.getall.com.*

STUDENTS from Brent International School's valuable lessons in photography.

Another crack at singing for Jericho, Gabby

From page G1

Philippine Christmas Foundation, gets a rousing makeover from singer Gino Cruz. Studio's Jonathan Goh, is also enlisted to give Boy Abunda's classic ballad, "Sinasamba Ka," a simple but sophisticated arrangement that captures the tune's lyrical beauty...but, what's with the additional lyrics? As they say, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Gary Valenciano, besides tends to unbelievably place his voice in his throat and near when he gets carried away. Also, he's better off without his falsetto ("The Man") and should choose songs where tricky speed doesn't expose his shaky grasp of the notes ("How Standing Here").

Like Pebe, Gabby Intros with confidence and ambition in his second album. In "Gotbegotable," he steps up the groove by getting on the ballroom bandwagon...with mixed results. Non-worthy tracks include the cha-cha-inspired "Fly Me To The Moon," the roughly accomplished "Put Your Head On My Shoulder" and the playfully flirtatious "Sway."

Light and leisurely

But, while most of his vocals here are serviceable, Gabby's 15-track effort doesn't really deliver a holder at better award, only a lower one. The artist's vocal quality is simply too heavy for ballroom light and leisurely rhythmic measures and insistent must, not easy on the sensationally sensitive numbers ("I Can't Make My Eyes Off You," "God Change") and sometimes plays outfit-up ("Sunday Morning"). Truly, superheroes's desire of songs is key to his success—or failure.

S-T-A. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL

THEATRES

1 THE BOX LADY PG-13
2 HALLOWEEN II R-18
3 SURROGATES PG-13
4 CARRIERS R-18
5 DR. PARNASSUS PG-13
6 THE ECHO PG-13
7 RED CLIFF PG-13
8 500 DAYS OF SUMMER PG-13
9 THE BOX LADY PG-13
10 THE HURT LOCKER R-18

NOW SHOWING AND COMING SOON SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FOR RESERVATIONS, CALL (02) 681-1278 OR (02) 681-1279

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 JULIE & JULIA PG-13 2:00, 4:50, 7:00, 9:50
2 500 DAYS OF SUMMER PG-13 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
3 JOHN HUGHES FILMFEST 2:05, 4:30, 7:05, 9:30
4 G-FORCE GP 11:05, 1:40, 3:55
4 RED CLIFF R-13 8:00, 10:00
5 HURT LOCKER R-13 12:05, 2:40, 6:20, 8:15

JOHN HUGHES FILM FESTIVAL
Back for one weekend only
October 23-25
Featuring
Pretty In Pink
Some Kind of Wonderful
Breakfast Club
Ferris Bueller's Day Off
Tickets P150 each
For inquiries, pls call 912-0222

Shang's La Mesa

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
THEATRE MALL
PROMENADE
1 2 3 4 5
G-FORCE
CINEMA 3D
MORNING SHOW

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
HALLOWEEN II - R13 1:00, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25
RED CLIFF - PG13 1:50, 4:30, 7:50, 10:50
G - FORCE - G 12:20, 2:30, 4:35, 6:35, 8:25, 10:20
JULIE & JULIA - PG13 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
THE HURT LOCKER - R13 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 7:55, 10:25
500 DAYS OF SUMMER - PG13 1:55, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30
FOR RES. & SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ATTACK PG-13

"The coolest romantic comedy of the year!"
★★★★

(500) DAYS OF SUMMER

Now Showing

FAMILY IS FOREVER

ROB ZOMBIE'S

HALLOWEEN II

R-13

NOW PLAYING

Britney does it again

LOS ANGELES—Oops, Britney Spears has done it again, with the pop singer cementing her comeback with her latest single, "3," rocketing to No. 1 on its debut week. Proving her popularity has not waned despite a personal and career meltdown in 2007 and 2008, "3" entered the Billboard Hot 100 chart at the top, making her the first artist with a No. 1 debut in more than three years.

SPEARS. First non-"American Idol" song to debut at No. 1 in 11 years.

Collection

The song, culled from her new album, "The Singles Collection," is the first No. 1 debut since Taylor Hicks' 2006 hit, "Do I Make You Proud?," and the first non-"American Idol" artist to enter the chart at No. 1 in 11 years.

"I want to thank my fans for making '3' the No. 1 song on the Billboard Hot 100," Spears, 27, said in a statement. "I'm truly blessed with the greatest fans in the world."

Spears has sold more than 60 million albums worldwide since she began as a teen pop phenomenon with the single, "...Baby One More Time," in 1998.

Reuters

Second-level stars move up

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME SHOW BIZ COMERS MAKE IT as soon in less than an entertainment minute, but many others have to bide their time for years before they become popular and bankable. After that long wait, they finally make their bid for stardom, hoping that they've acquired the experience and appeal needed for them to succeed.

The show biz season, some heretofore second-level talents are making their big push to end up in the star circle of certified lead players. How are they doing it, and how successful have they been?

ABRENICA, GONZALES AND RAMSAY (RIGHT). Making their big push to swing in the star circle of certified lead players.

First love

Derek Ramsay used to play the strong or "dark-at-heart" roles, all the way up to this year's "And I Love You So," the film Ahrens-Imee Milby romance where he was cast as Boots' first love, who expired after a grave illness. Now you're excited expected to make his big bid to move up to leading man status.

Is he up to it? His biggest drawback is his being no longer as young as some other screen comers are. But, if his breakthrough lead role is a hugely successful and executed—and if the project comes his with real life supports, Angel Locsin/Dingdong—he could make it.

Jaclyn Mercado is younger, as his big outlet but could be an easier feat for him to pull off. He's also very visible on the TV and movie screens, with the new TV series, "Lovers in Paris," as his current thought calling card. His drawback is his lack of depth and versatility, which he's trying to make up for with his many and varied portrayals.

A suggestion for both Derek and Jaclyn: Since the show biz scene already has too many "dramatic" leading men, they could stand out more if their respective breakout vehicles would have a strong "action" component, the sort that the likes of John Lloyd Cruz, Piolo Pascual and Dingdong Dantes can't do justice to—all that convincingly. Other male comers who could be ready to move up from second-tier status include Rahel Bonell, Sid Lauren and TJ Trinidad.

Advantage

On the throw side, Erich Gonzales is the young talent to beat, thanks to her believable and empathetic portrayal in "Katorse." Will she be gearing up for movie stardom, or not? If so, her best bet would be a starring vehicle that takes full advantage of her youth and "sweet but seductive" appeal.

For their part, Kris Bernal and Aljur Abrenica have just come from a successful TV series, and have recently been introduced in film endeavors as the young leads of the big-screen melodrama, "Kimmy Mo ...Nagmomonthsal Ito."

How will they fare at this stage? Their TV series had them go the usual pursuer and pursuit route, so their prospects as dynamic and vital film leads are less than exciting.

However, if their first big-screen encounter turned out to be successful, the momentum could be used to propel their "ticket" careers in the next and possibly bigger one.

Celebs' kids come into their own

By Bebe Cervantes

WE RECALL THE TRAGIC LIVES of "would-be" and "would-have-been" stars like Diana Barrymore. Despite her immense presence and prodigious genes (she was the daughter of John and actress Lionel and Ethel), Diana became a Hollywood has-been even before she established herself as a star. Years later, MGM filmed "The Bad and the Beautiful," a movie loosely based on her tragic life.

Her brother, John Jr., was similarly good-looking and was given important breaks at the start of his career, but he ended up making forgettable films in Europe. Fortunately, he "produced" a talented child named Drew, who captured the imagination of the world when she forged a strong friendship with "E.T." in Steven Spielberg's sci-fi classic.

Background

Drew herself seemed cursed with the Barrymores' tragic flaw. Years after her first screen debut, she turned to alcohol, sex and drugs in her teens. Despite her dysfunctional family background, the spunky actress was able to pull herself together and is one of Hollywood's most bankable stars today, as well as a very promising director.

Liza Minnelli won an Academy Award for her performance in Bob Fosse's "Cabaret." Despite big films like "New York, New York," the studs finally pierced decisions and became self-destructive. She gained weight as she got hooked on alcohol and drugs. She seems to suffer in the shadow of her talented but tragic mother, Judy Garland.

Charlie Chaplin is deemed one of Hollywood's greatest talents. He was a successful producer, director and actor—he's even remembered for composing two lasting songs, "Smile" and "Eternally." However, his son, Charlie Chaplin Jr., never amounted to anything as an actor.

His brother, Sidney started on Broadway in productions like "Bells Are Ringing" and "Funny Girl." However, he quit the latter when Barbra Streisand made every scene he was in.

Frank Sinatra is known as "The Chairman and the leader of the Rat Pack. He was not known as a faithful husband to that wife, Nancy, but he was a doting father to Nancy Jr. and Frank Jr.

Frank even took backwards to sing "Something Stupid" with Nancy Jr. in her last hit musical number. Ironically, the song was the biggest recovery he has gold record, but his daughter soon disappeared from the spotlight.

Classic beauty

Ingrid Bergman's place of honor in cinema was assured when she portrayed Ilsa in "Casablanca." One of her twin daughters, Isabella Rossellini, exhibited some of her gifts—classic beauty, vampie depth, etc.—though she never reached the heights of her mother's popularity.

Interestingly, Daisy Kuala's daughter, Jane, and John Ireland's son, Enrique, have found their own place under the entertainment sun—by opting to become distinct individuals, rather than trading in their fathers' shadows.

SINATRA (WITH DAUGHTER, NANCY JR.). Doting father.

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Second-level stars move up /G4

SATURDAY Special

GOLDTHWAIT (left) shows and acts with Williams in "World's Greatest Dad."

Twitter during sex and other funny quotes from Robin Williams

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rahnev V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"Is it proper to Twitter during sex?" That's one of the lame howlers from Robin Williams in our recent press con with him.

ZONTA CLUB OF MANILA FOUNDATION INC.
CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2009
InterContinental Manila
Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Sunday, October 25, 2009, 8AM to 8PM
Major credit cards will be accepted

FILIPINO HOSPITALITY, ANGAT SA MUNDO!

Singapore Australia Dubai

Canada Spain Philippines

ASHA

Surf, chat, email, download and blog.

Nokia 2700 classic
• 2 Megapixel camera • Quadband • Bluetooth
• Free 1 GB micro SD card (expandable up to 2 GB)

Get this exclusively at Sun Plan 350*
• Free 2MP camera phone
• 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited**
• 250 texts to other networks

An exclusive opportunity to surf the net for FREE with this latest phone from Sun and Nokia. Get over (1) hour free* Mobile Internet to activate your Ovi Mail.

* 24 month lockin period
** Limit one (1) mobile unit per line
Valid for all Sun Cellular subscribers
Limited offer, while stocks last
Terms and conditions apply

ovi
www.ovi.com

sun CELLULAR
fun rules, here rules.

At the Cinemas

Ayala Malls

GLORIETTA 4

GREENBELT 1

GREENBELT 3

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

MARKET!MARKET!

TRINOMA

MARQUEE

For verification, please call 728-1777

EXCLUSIVE

NOW SHOWING AT GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3 & TRINOMA CINEMAS

★★★★

HILARIOUS, GRIPPING AND RIDICULOUSLY ENTERTAINING. ONE OF THE YEAR'S BEST FILMS."

"A SALUTARY ACHIEVEMENT."

At the Malls

GLORIETTA

Jack o Lantern Photo Station- Treat yourself to a Halloween photo with our Pumpkin Jack o Lanterns

Glorietta 3 Park from October 19-31

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

Southern Cuisine Cooking Workshops: Comforting Casseroles

October 30; 4pm; Corte de las Palmas

AYALA CENTER CEBU

Pink Dinner for a Cause- Your P1,000 dinner at Terraces will fund cancer foundations

October 24; 6pm; The Terraces

ONSTAGE

Jack And The Beanstalk

Ayalaland B - December 10, 2009

For more details, please call

Ring at 887-0710

Halloween Treats

Halloween Fantastic Carnival

Halloween Crafty Trees

Trick or Treat at Glorietta

Jack O Lantern Photo Station

Tri Nomas

MARQUEE MALL

Why judicious editing is important

By Nestor U. Torre

ONE OF THE "HIDDEN" and grossly underappreciated artists in the TV-film process is the film editor. He or she works quietly, far away from the cameras, and yet, the way TV-film footage is edited affects a production's success or failure in a major way.

These thoughts come to mind, because we've recently seen evidence of how important editing is to the production process. First, the news "Pinoy Big Brother 3" opening show was more viewable than past editions, because it was so briskly conceptualized and edited.

"DAHAN." "Editing has to be seamless for the special effects to work.

From start to finish

In the past, the reality challenge's opening telecasts tended to be too slow, pretentious and long. This time around, thanks to judicious editing and compression, the introduction of the GI's new contestants fairly flew along, and we found ourselves watching the show from start to finish.

In the "Angelinas" movies, too, some comic sequences worked well, partly because they were so smartly and organically directed and edited. On the other hand, some ugly gags didn't work because they were so too long.

One example is the sequence in which a villain's moustache was clipped in half while his back was to the camera. He took much too long to turn around to reveal the "bona" shaving, giving viewers time to guess what the visual "punch line" would be—so, when it was finally revealed, it became anticlimactic. Crisper editing would have speeded up the process, to everyone's delight. In comedy, timing is everything, so judicious editing is extremely important.

Problem

Or story takeover, editing is again a problem, because clumsy melodramas tend to make their characters speak too long and look, screaming invectives at each other, ad nauseam. After a while, one "confrontation" scene looks and sounds like all the others, so crisp and even ruthless editing is urgently needed.

On fantasy-adventure sci-fi like "Enteng," the editing flow is the most important of action, flying and special effects scenes. As a result, these key moments fail to fly and happen, so a lot is lost in terms of the shows' excitement quotient.

There's also a problem with editing "natural" action in combination with special-effects setups. The editing has to be seamless for the effects to work, but this sometimes doesn't happen.

More lively

On "Lovers in Paris," indifferent editing even affects the performances of our characters as opposed to another Tito Sotto-Vic Sotto-Joey de Leon movie's "Dikit" portrayal to extend it a bit more. Director Wenn Deramas's more leisured shots and shot characters.

This makes logical sense, but is ultimately proven to be a disappointment for Dida's performance, because it comes off as comparatively tedious and boring. So, the production needs to help energize Dida's performance with more astute and interesting "psychological" editing.

The bottom line is: You can play a boring character, but your performance must never be boring, subtly dynamic editing can help Pedro's character a lot in this regard.

These and other instances should make viewers more aware and appreciative of the key role that good editing plays in TV-film productions.

Editing may be a "hidden" art and craft, but it sometimes has unsung and visual heightsge of cinema, as it's really where the film's super vision is.

SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY at Robinsons Movieworld Galleria and Manila

MOVIEWORLD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL MADNESS

NCAA

FINALS

2pm • San Beda vs. Lyceum (Juniors)

4 pm • San Beda vs. San Sebastian (Seniors)

TODAY • ARANETA COLISEUM

Heady romantic summers

From page H8

the well-meaning but ultimately unsuccessful "Little Man, Big Time" or the fantastically lightweight "Kambyo."

For the most part, Dolby does well as Annie Erwin, but holds back in some highly charged dramatic moments that require more urgency and commitment from him. The other notable portrayal is turned in by Richard Quan, who plays the eyeglasses-wearer agent in the film's good cop-bad cop scenario.

Commentary

Jay weaves a clear and briskly paced tale. He puts his storytelling dexterity and visual flair to good use as he subtly adds from one social commentary to another. However, the mood-lively punctuated dance sequence could have used some trimming.

Moreover, the provocative scenes he conjures up on screen won't sit well with conservative viewers, but they do come with a cautionary statement and a warning: Scenes that depict violence or graphic sex are never a party right.

Making a difference

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Stewart

1. One individual can't do much, but if 50 customers that could each build five gallons of water.

2. The third owner of a water purifying station agreed to fill up each container for only 15 pesos.

3. Every day for two weeks, hundreds of locals got up at 5 a.m. to prepare the huge pots of salt-garnished liquid from faucets and boil 5,000 pieces of plastic bottles (also).

Evacuation centers

4. That, the water went to different evacuation centers in Ormoc, Marikina and Pasig to distribute the water rangers, however, it's looking worse.

People were grateful for the warm food and clean water. The most didn't spend a lot of money, but the simple things they did breakfast every third victims. Their stories of kindness and love warm the heart and touch the soul. Indeed, every person can make a difference.

Truth is stranger than fiction in latest Damon-Soderbergh collaboration

By Nicolai Tiava

THE RELATIVELY TALE OF MINER Whitmore, a top-tier executive at a Fortune 100 company who becomes a whistleblower for the FBI, is proof positive of the aphorism that the truth is sometimes stranger than fiction. Whitmore (Matt Damon), the protagonist of Steven Soderbergh's latest film, "The Informant," is a fascinating character who's very hard to figure out, even after the end of an almost two-hour-long movie about him.

DAMON. Takes viewers on a loopy ride.

Whistleblower

The highest-ranking executive to have ever turned whistleblower in American history, Whitmore exposed the price-fixing conspiracy that his company, Archer Daniels Midland (ADM), was involved in. It's the 1990s, and ADM, an agribusiness conglomerate, is colluding with several food companies to fix the price of lysine in the world market. They manage to double it and make a lot of money in the process — that is, until Whitmore starts talking to the Feds.

If you think "The Informant!"is like "The Insider," think again. While the story might be similar to Michael Mann's 1999 Russell Crowe-starrer, which was about another whistleblower, you can tell how different they are by noting that the title of the former has an exclamation point. That punctuation mark, not to mention the wacky '70s-style music and the retro font used in the title credits, should tell you that Soderbergh, along with Damon, plans to take you on a spin...and what a loopy ride it turns out to be!

The film is probably the easiest cinematic depiction you'll ever see about corporate fraud and the pudgy men in suits who perpetrate it. It's a serious matter and the production never loses sight of that fact, but it does so value time to relish the absurdity of it all.

The script, written by Scott Z. Burns and based on the book, "The Informant: A True Story" by Kurt Eichenwald, gives us a peek into the life of an immensely unlovable individual. If you want to know why Whitmore did what he did, you're not really going to find out completely. What you'll have a lot of fun trying, anyway.

What Damon, who puts on 20 pounds, thick glasses, a comper and a mustache, is at his most earnest. He will draw you in, make you believe in him and play you like a fish on a line.

Cherry countenance

The actor delivers a deceptively straight performance. His blank Whitmore looks like any dating narrator in America, with his thickening waist, home in the suburbs and cherry countenance. But, don't be deceived: As the movie progresses, you'll see what lies beneath the surface.

In fact, you'll get a taste of it right from the start, since the script requires him to deliver voice-overs throughout the movie. Frequently hilarious and almost always chaotic, internal boss when he's going on in the real world, these monologues clue you in on how differently Whitmore functions and add to the film's overall sense of things not being completely right.

Twitter during sex ...

From page B1

As we've written before, Robin is atypical of comedians—he is hysterically funny in person, quick to the draw, and always "on." Some comedians are actually so serious and reclusive in real life that they bore us to death. So Robin is a rare breed. So it doesn't seem when he answered a reporter's question about how his friend, Julia Turoldo, was doing since the actor lost his son, Jet.

Before starting with Arbor in the family comedy, "Old Dogs," He also topples "World's Greatest Dad," a comedy-drama written and directed by Bobcat Goldthwait. In it, Robin portrays a single dad and teacher who aspires to be a rock and famous writer, and later learns that the things you covet most may not necessarily bring you happiness.

Divorced from Pil-Sic Wanda Graves Williams, Robin talked about their kids, Zach, Zelda and Cody, and how he was adjusting after the separation. And, here's Robin's answer to his one question if it's apt to "twerk" during sex: "I don't think so." Excerpts:

How have you been feeling since your heart surgery?

It's weird. After you go through heart surgery, you get very emotional. For a while, I felt fine, instead of a valve, they gave me a tiny engine. Actually, I got a bovine valve, which has made it hard to eat cows, because it's like, "You're one of us now!" After over four months, it seems to be working. When you've just had open-heart surgery, you do get this idea of a second chance.

Letters

I was thinking, if they offered me a mechanical valve, I could get the new Apple iHeart. It comes with applications—50,000 songs in the heart rather than out. I'm crying again. It's shut things—it's Robin 2.0. You come back from the surgery thinking about how grateful you are for everything, like breathing and appreciating all the people who wrote you letters.

It would be great if you could have cash for clunkers like old organs. Or, maybe go to that rabbi in New Jersey who sells livers. "Have much for the heart?"

How is John Travolta doing?

I haven't heard from him. I sent condolences, and I hope he's well. Losing a child—I can't even fathom that.

What was it like working with Jules in "Old Dogs"?

He's fearless, and he's the sweetest, funniest and kindest guy. If you saw "Hairspray" you know he's not afraid to be a big actress, and another term is to use a blunderbuss. It was a great comedy pairing. I would try something and he would play off it. It was like jazz — we riffed together pretty well.

The movie's basic running joke is about three two older guys raising two children. Arbor's character is always hitting on women. My character is like, "Oh, don't do that!" He uses the children as cougar bait. "You have to have a Range Rover and two kids—then, you can trap hot cougars. You have to bring a vial of flower to seduce them.

How are you coping with the divorce?

Quietly. I'm spending a lot of time with my children.

How are the kids adjusting?

Kids adjust pretty quickly as long as you're straight with them. They're old enough to know what's going on.

Zach is married and living in New York. Zelda got her high school degree and has been acting. She's done five movies, to several of them, she gets killed. I mean, "Oh, great." In one, she played the concubine of Satan. I said, "That's my girl!" Cody is still in college. He's a great writer, and I'm in shock.

As a parent, did you ever feel shortsighted because you could have handled better?

Yes, but it's a question of time. Sometimes, you have to realize he's your son, not your friend. And, for a while, there was a lot of lay arrested development. I played games with them. "Let me win." Then, my son would say, "Wish a minute, you are 58, and I am 18." Or, Zelda once said to me while I was reading her a story, "Don't do the voices, just stick to the story." I learn from them. I had a rough period, and I came back from that. I appreciate them more now, and they appreciate me, too.

Part of the drill

I like being honest and say to them, "I can tell you about many things. You'll make mistakes, and that's part of the drill. You've seen mine." They've been published, and there's even a videotape if you really want to see for yourself.

The only period of them, Zelda's acting. I only worrying, and Zach is God. He does all sorts of different things—producing, writing, and I just say, "Good luck!" But, the one thing that I always say to them is, "Love what you're doing, then people can't stop you. It won't be easy. But, if that's what you really want to do, you have a fighting chance, rather than saying, 'I'm going to be famous!'" Oh, no. Good luck, because that means bad news. It's redundant, I know.

What are you looking for in a woman now?

Cougar! No—most of a roommate here. Somebody who's not afraid to answer the door. Right now, it's very quiet. I live in Northern California, where it's even quieter. I can go out, and people don't say, "Oh, it's you." I can blend in nicely.

You were made in "World's Greatest Dad."

They had to shoot me, and there were animal rights issues. He can make a nice montage out of the pile.

Is it easier for you to do a nude scene as you get older?

It never gets easier to do a nude scene. I did one in "The Fisher King," where I was nude in Central Park. It was nighttime, so it was very cold. But, to do a nude diving scene is another matter. I suggested it to Bob because at this point in the story, my characters is kind of shedding everything.

E-mail rwapolat_1082@yahoo.com, and read Mr. Big, "The Angelic Report," on http://blogs.inquirer.net/rapolatreport

Heady romantic summers, broken dreams in provocative dramas

By Rito P. Asilo

ARE WE ALL DESTINED TO MEET OUR One True Love at some point in our lives? Tom Hanson (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), the male protagonist of director Marc Webb's big romantic drama, "(500) Days of Summer," certainly thinks so. Unfortunately, heroine Rian (Zooey Deschanel), the cynical other half of the movie's romantic equation, seems to believe otherwise.

Now, here's a tale that's as refuge-aware as it is bittersweet—without the whirlwinds of reddo-crazy love stories. Webb's film doesn't look at romance as a life-changing experience whose complications can easily be examined...or explained—by the chronology of its hero's.

The movie's premise is simple—boy meets girl, boy falls hard for girl, girl plays along, boy loses girl, etc....but, Webb doesn't tell his story in sequence. This is his way to introduce viewers to a unique perspective on the duo's continuing insights about love and commitment. And, sure enough, despite flying the complexity of the relationship that develops between Tom and Summer doesn't come easily for viewers.

Love at first sight

For Tom, it is love at first sight when he sees Summer in the conference room of the greeting-card company he works for—in fact, he's convinced she's the one for him. Question is: is the feeling mutual? Summer is cynically flustered, but love isn't something you can force or explain.

The tricky situation gets even more complicated when the couple breaches the fine line between celebrating love and friendship. Where the commitment-wary woman finally pops Tom's bubble, the love-struck guy realizes just how deeply he's fallen!

Webb's decision to tell his story in a nonlinear fashion is potentially chaotic, but the filmmaker successfully pulls off the difficult feat by keeping the sound-bite narrative jumps breezy and easy to follow. The production is further energized by minor whimsy, a well-paced tempo and the insightful performances of its two leads.

GORDON-LEVITT AND DESCHANEL. Life-saving epiphany

Gordon-Levitt turns in a heartbreaking performance even as he keeps his characterization simple and real. His emotional meltdown in the boathouse is just as sweeping as watch as his life-saving epiphany in the final scene. He's the Everyman who waits for fate to show him the ropes.

In contrast, the achingly complex Deschanel represents the woman who creates her own destiny—until she realizes she's not much different from Tom, after all.

Missed opportunities

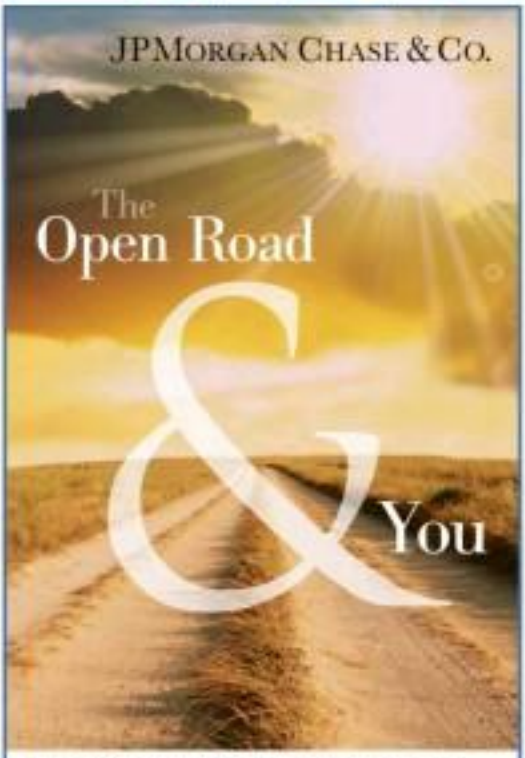
In Jeosbles "Jay" Manansi' latest gender-bending drama, 'Ang Lam ng Buhay ni Juan," destiny also delivers love blows to the dreams and big-city aspirations of 28-year-old Juan Reyes aka Kwan (Jiro Au Dulay). After three years of cold jobs and missed opportunities, the protagonist's misadventures in the metropolis have left him barely hanging by a thread.

In gritty cinéma vérité fashion, the film follows Kwan on the day before his fourth five-and-a-half jungle for good. He's convinced there's a better future waiting for him in his otherwise impoverished hometown in Mindoro. Unsurprisingly, the fateful day turns out to be an emotional roller-coaster ride for Kwan as he exchanges pleasantries with his neighbors, then bids his lover, Noel, goodbye.

It's also Kwan's last day at Inner Sanctum, the seedy underground gay bar where he works as a live-sex performer. However, after his final show —and just as he's about to leave the club —something happens that awakens his erotic to turn a new leaf.

Manansi' latest gay-themed sensitive tackles many subject matters with sensitivity and uncompromising vision... Inc. like "Lalaki sa Pamilya" and "Lihim at Antoinette," it is not for everyone. Recently, "Liars" is a catch above

HEADS UP



There's nothing like the open road to satisfy your taste for excitement and adventure. The sense of independence, the joy of freedom, the thought of endless possibilities. This is the journey that you'll get at **JPMorgan Chase & Co.**, a financial services company that encourages its people and teams to be driven by **innovation**, and to work within a business culture that reflects integrity, diversity, team work, respect and meritocracy. With JPMorgan Chase & Co., the whole world is your open road.

Join & Prosper

Career opportunities in our Makati and The Fort sites:

- Customer Service • Treasury and Securities Operations • Financial Processing
- Technical Support • Mortgage Operations • Collections • Card Activation
- Human Resources • Training / Performance Improvement
- Information Technology (Oracle and SQL Administration / Windows System Administration / Linux Administration / Web Server Administration / Production Support)
- Corporate Real Estate

JPMorgan Chase & Co. Career Hub
Ground Floor, Net Plaza Building, 31st Street, E-Square Zone Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
www.jpmorganchase.com/PHcareers

(JPMorgan Chase & Co. is a marketing brand for the legal entity of JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. Philippine Customer Care Center)